



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – October 24, 2021

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

***Choral Introit** **“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place”**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, my God!

How lovely is your dwelling place, is your dwelling place, O God!

(Piano will play once, Soloist will sing once, Congregation will sing once)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God sees all – and understands.

All: We pretend that we see – but misunderstand.

Leader: God nonetheless accepts us – and our misunderstanding with a limitless love.

All: We in worship would dare to accept that love – and so grow in our seeing and understanding.

Leader: Thus can our blindness be healed.

All: Thus can we become fit servants of God.

***Hymn** **“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”** **#495 (NCH)**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God, you have through the years spoken of people who have eyes – and yet see not. Pictured is always a scene of incompleteness, not only of incomprehension and misunderstanding, but of ignorance and poverty. Why is this so? We cannot cast the blame on you, O God, nor can we rightly blame others. The fact that we do not see is in truth due to our own choices – our own self-interest that in many cases imposes a veil between us and our neighbor. We choose not to see – and not only we but others pay the consequences. We rivet our attention on that which we hold to be of value to us, and at the same time fail to discern that of greater value to all, that which defines life itself. Forgive us this blindness, this spiritual blindness. By your mercy sight us, we pray, with vision; vision sensitive to those ways in which we might serve you and all of your creation around us.

And most of all, help us to see the face of Christ, for there we will find one worthy of emulation, worthy of the best of heart and mind. It is in His name that we ask it. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Choral Response **“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Take hearts: God hears your prayers. Get up: God has healed your brokenness. Listen: God calls to you with hope, with forgiveness, with life.

All: Now, our eyes are opened and we can see; now, our ears are opened and we can hear; now, we can follow Christ into the kingdom. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Choral Response (sung)** **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** **#293(NCH)**

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord: there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

***Affirmation of Faith** **“A New Creed”**

Leader: We are not alone. We live in God’s world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating. Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil. To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Listening for the Word

A Time with the Children

Choral Response **“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

The Scripture Reading

The Psalter Reading Psalm 126

A New Testament Reading Hebrews 7: 23-28
The Gospel Lesson Mark 10: 46-52
"Let's Go With Him"

Sermon

Jim Cope

Hymn of Faith

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

#Insert

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Choral Response

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response**

"Take My Gifts"

#562(NCH)

Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find, Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Reform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world into which we send them. Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love! Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission**

"O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"

#503 (NCH)

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: May each one of us see – and understand

All: what God would have us be and what God would have us do in His name.

Leader: That we be whole and complete, that our neighbor be blessed in like manner, and that all of creation might indeed rejoice.

All: May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

***Three-fold Amen**

#812 (NCH)

*Postlude

*Indicates that all who are able. Please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.

Notice Someone Missing? *If so, give them a call and let them know they are missed.*