



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – October 31, 2021

9:30 AM

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

The Gathering

Ringling of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: See how God loves us!

All: God loves us enough to swallow up death forever.

Leader: See how Christ loves us!

All: Christ loves us enough to share our loss and grief.

Leader: See how the Spirit loves us!

All: The Holy Spirit loves us enough to offer us words of hope we can trust.

Procession of Light **“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”** **#485 (NCH)**

Invocation **“We Remember Them”**

***Hymn** **“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”** **#42 (NCH)**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We come to you, Listener of our broken lives, with our hands soiled with the pain we have caused, with our ears stuffed with the words of those who speak falsely, with our hearts stained with those lusts and hungers we would be embarrassed for others to know. Forgive us and have mercy on us, Wiper of our tears. As we seek to journey from the baptismal waters towards the feast you prepare in glory, may we turn our faces toward you in every moment, listen to your words in the depths of our hearts, and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Lift up your heads, saints of God! Your sin is gone, your hands once full of foolishness are now empty. God has clothed you with garments of joy to wear to the feast.

All: Our former life has passed, our new life in Christ has begun. All things are new – including us! 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 **“Spirit of the Living God”** **#283 (NCH)**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

The Scripture Reading

The Psalter Reading Psalm 24

The Gospel Lesson John 11: 32-44

Sermon **“Cling to What’s True”** Jim Cope

Hymn of Faith **“God Is Truly with Us”** **#68 (NCH)**

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

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**

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom, knowing that as we do, you will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission** **"The Old Rugged Cross"** **#195 (NCH)**

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: God, for all the saints we give you thanks-

All: for grandparents and godparents, for doctors and teachers, for coaches and pastors.

Leader: God, for all the saints we give you thanks-

All: for authors of books that have moved me, for friends whose advice has guided me, for strangers who proved an example, for my children and the children of others who have given me courage.

Leader: God, for all the saints we give you thanks-

All: for those nearest and farthest away, for those who have died, and those who are living, for those who knew they made a difference and those who will never know they made a difference.

Leader: God, for all the saints we give you thanks.

All: 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.*



RITUAL OF REMEMBERING

Leader: On this celebration of All Saints Day, we remember and honor the saints of yesterday and today; faithful people who set their hopes on Christ and who with their lives, praised God. We remember this day those saints of this congregation who have entered into eternal rest during this past year.

Vicki L. Smith, Marian F. Mull, Charles C. Dreese

Leader: We remember also those who have gone before us and touched our lives in some way. ***A moment of silence.*** We celebrate these lives this day even as we continue to grieve.

Call to Prayer: (Please be seated)

Leader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

All: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

Leader: Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer

The 23rd Psalm (Unison)

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

During the musical selection, you are invited to come forward and receive a remembrance of your loved one this day – With You Always Cross.



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