



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word – November 7, 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: Unless our God builds the house, its builders labor in vain

All: We have come into this house, built by the Holy One, to worship the God of Creation.

Leader: Unless our God watches over the city, those who watch stand guard in vain.

All: We have come to listen to the stories of people who throughout the generations have shown us the way by their trust in the promises of God, who is always watching over us.

Leader: The widow who gives her last coin and Naomi and Ruth who are lifelong companions for each other remind us of the risks we are free to take with confidence that God is present through times of plenty and times of want, all along our journey through life.

All: So, let us celebrate this gathering which can bind us together. Give thanks that we are no longer strangers with God’s people here or throughout the nations. Let us worship God!

***Hymn** **“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”** **#565 (NCH)**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God, we know that we are already rich, but refuse to see those in our midst who live on meager resources. In fact, we find it comes naturally to ignore those who have the most to teach us. We don’t want to acknowledge that it is often those with the least who give the most. It embarrasses us each

time we are reminded of the examples of Ruth and the poor widow. We are experts with prayers that make us feel important and we assume that special recognition is due to us. We expect special privileges. We speak of our belief that you will provide for all that we need - resources and partners on our life’s journey. Yet, we still don’t give ourselves over to your promises. Even with our wealth, perhaps because of our wealth, we need help to live faithfully. Forgive us we pray. Lead us to live boldly as witnesses to the strength we have in Christ Jesus.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Choral Response **“Breathe One Me, Breathe of God”** **#292 (NCH)**
Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire; that every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Take heart. God gives new life, even to those who hold back from giving fully of themselves or who think God has abandoned them.

All: We are restored to God and each other, knowing that God will provide without limit. 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 **“Breathe One Me, Breathe of God”** **#292 (NCH)**
Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a-new that I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

The Scripture Reading

The Old Testament Reading Ruth 3:1-5 and 4:13-17

A New Testament Reading Hebrews 9:24-28

The Gospel Lesson Mark 12:38-44

Sermon "Matchmaker Matchmaker Make Me A Match" Pastor Jan

Hymn of Faith "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" #485 (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**

We lift up these offerings as a sign of our gratitude for your love and care, O God. We pledge ourselves, time, talent, and treasures. We pray that we may follow in the spirit of the poor woman who gave her all without hesitation. We dedicate our lives to you and seek to grow in our faithfulness to your Word.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission** "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" #393 (NCH)

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: Go forth into the world

All: We will be for one another as Ruth and Naomi were for each other.

Leader: Go on the journey together, wherever it may lead you. Share the gifts of God with the people of God.

All: We will be gentle and bold, courageous and trusting.

***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.*