



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Second Sunday after Christmas

Service of the Word – January 2, 2022

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

Choral Introit

“Sanctuary”

Insert

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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

*Call to Worship

Leader: God's goodness is built into the foundation of Creation! God chose us in Christ from the beginning. God calls us blameless, holy, and loved.

All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Leader: God has made an eternal promise to gather all things. God will reconcile all things on earth and heaven in the fullness of time.

All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Leader: In Jesus Christ we have heard the word of Truth. In the Holy Spirit breathed on us and diverse peoples throughout the world, God's promise has been sealed.

All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

*Hymn

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

#55 (NCH)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God's Word came to God's own people, and the people did not accept the Word. We do not accept you, our Sovereign Christ. We cannot abide by your commandments. We do not know how to love you, our neighbors, or ourselves. God's Word came to God's own people, and the people did not accept the Word. We do not accept you, Ruler of Peace. We wage war on the most vulnerable. In ourselves we wage war on vulnerability itself. We do not accept you, Light of the World. We block your light shining in us, putting barriers between us and your children. Holy Word of God, call us to yourself once again.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Here these words of the Gospel according to John “And the Word became flesh and living among us, and we have seen the Word's glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth. From the fullness we have all received, grace upon grace”

All: Our forgiveness is as assured as God's mercies, which abound endlessly. 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

“The Apostle's Creed”

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Listening for the Word

A Time with the Children

Choral Response

“Breathe On Me, Breath 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

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 147:12-20

New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-14

The Gospel Lesson

John 1:10-18

Sermon "And the Word Became Flesh?" Pastor Jan
Hymn of Faith "Blessed Assurance" #473 (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**

Most wise and wondrous God, we pray that soon and very soon your blessings will cover the face of the earth like a mist, that divine offerings and the offerings of human hands mingle imperceptibly as every need is satisfied.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #144 (NCH)

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: Go forth, and share grace upon grace upon grace.

All: We will do so in the likeness of our Sovereign, Jesus the Christ.

Leader: Share grace over waves of the sea and over all the earth.

All: We will share grace over every person we encounter. 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.