



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Service of the Word - March 27, 2022

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

Call to Worship

Sung Response

“Insert”

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?
Sometimes we get what we get,
life disappoints us and yet,
God is still here and somehow; this faith is good enough. *[repeat]*

Calling on God (In an Attitude of Prayer)

A Time with the Children

*Opening Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#43 (NCH)

Call to Confession

Leader: Today we will hear how the Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land of his dream vacation. And so, he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his extravagant failure is met with extravagant love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing in the pig pen. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a big ole risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of

love and grace. Do you find yourself being unrealistically hard on yourself? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Second Letter to the Corinthians: “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the guilt and shame of our past failings and our present unrealistic expectations. We are invited to rejoice that each day is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy, and not dread, the life before us.

And know, that despite our sometimes-faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

*Choral Response

“Gloria Patri”

#759 (NCH)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Hymn of Preparation

“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.

First Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel Reading

Luke 15: 1-3 and 11-32

Sermon

“There's No Place Like Home”

Pastor Jan

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Jesus (debts and debtors)

Choral Response

“Let the Words of My Mouth”

#770 (NCH)

