



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Service of the Word - April 3, 2022

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringling 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**

“The Lord Went to a Dinner”

Tune #493 (NCH)

The Lord went to a dinner, and Mary took perfume.

As she anointed Jesus, the fragrance filled the room.

She'd sat as a disciple, she'd been a faithful friend,

and now, with costly fragrance, she honored Christ again.

Soon Judas was complaining, "This gift could have been sold;

We could have helped the poor here — the young ones and the old.

Yet Jesus said, "My people will always help the poor,

but Mary chose to give this — to me, her dying Lord."

Her gift was her expression of thankfulness and praise,

and so it makes us wonder, in these long Lenten days:

What would we give to Jesus if he sat at our meal?

What gift would be our kindness and what would it reveal?

O Lord, today we offer the best that we can bring —

our worship as a fragrance, our love, an offering.

And now, as we're reminded the poor are with us still,

we pray that we may serve them — to honor you, as well.

Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ’s vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga.

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

**All: 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

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Gospel Reading

John 12: 1-8

Sermon

“What Could Have Been”

Jim Cope

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)**

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response** **“Doxology”** **#780 (NCH)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow,
Praise Three-in-One, from here below.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous God,
in light of your extravagant blessings—
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—
we offer our gifts and ourselves,
and know that you transform what we plant
into the produce of love.
Amen.**

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission** **“Be Still My Soul”** **#488 (NCH)**

***A Blessing for When You’re in Grief (Unison)**

*“Blessed are you, dear, dear one,
doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered.
Of grieving what has been lost.*

Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known.

*This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around
you,*

*a force field of different realities separating you.
Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen
by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now.*

*Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you,
gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not
alone.”*

***Benediction**

***Choral Response** **“And God Will Raise You Up”** **#775 (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.*