Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome YOU on this

Thanksgiving Sunday

Service of the Word – November 20, 2022

Dr. James Cope, Pastor

Janice Garinger, Pastor In Care

The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell
Our Life Together
Prelude
The Solemn Declaration

Choral Introit "Surely the Presence of the Lord"

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Prayer of Invocation
*Call to Worship

Leader: To the Thanksgiving table of plenty,
All: Come, thankful people, come!
Leader: To the kitchen where familiar hands prepare with love,
All: Come, thankful people, come!
Leader: To the farm where calloused hands plant and tend,
All: Come, thankful people, come!
Leader: To the rich earth, where roots stretch and seeds grow,
All: Come, thankful people, come!
Leader: To this service of worship and praise of the God of creation,
All: Come, thankful people, come!

***Opening Hymn "Come, O Thankful People Come" #422 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession
The Unison Prayer of Confession

The season of Thanksgiving provides an opportunity for us to take stock of God's blessings, and to reflect on our response to those blessings.
Our Creator, you have made an intricate and diverse world, and set us to cultivate it reverently and responsibly. When we forget our connection with all of creation, forgive us, O God.
Our Creator, you have made a world of abundance and intend for us to share so that all may have their "daily bread." When we lose the sense of hospitality and community, forgive us, O God.
Our Creator, you have sent us Jesus, the "Bread of Life" to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst. When we do not respond to his justice and mercy, forgive us, O God.
Every day and all day let us shape our very lives by focusing our minds on what is beautiful and worthy of praise. When we forget that you make all things possible, forgive us, O God.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Unison Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We have offered to God the concerns of our hearts and minds. We trust that God not only hears our prayers, but in God's almighty wisdom and awareness of our needs does answer our prayers. We are a forgiven people.
All: We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.

***Choral Response "Gloria Patri" #759 (TNCH)**

Glory be to the Savior our mighty God and Holy Comforter; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children and Dismissal to Sunday School
Prayer for Illumination
The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson *Psalm 100*
New Testament Lesson *Philippians 4: 4-9*
Gospel Lesson *John 6: 25-35*

Sermon *"Grateful"* Pastor Cope
Hymn "We Praise You, O God" #420 (NCH)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

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**

O God, we have come, and what a delight it has been! We come before you in this moment with our gifts – gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of trust. We thank you for the chance to give, and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same. Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

A Litany of Thanksgiving for our Many Blessings **Insert**

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn** **"For the Fruit of All Creation"** **#425 (NCH)**

***Words of Benediction**

Leader: This week, in our prayers around tables. May we discover what is beautiful and call it a blessing.

All: May we recognize the way in which our lives are intertwined with the lives of others and with all of God's creation.

Leader: May we be bold to praise God with our thanksgiving. Filled to the brim with the goodness of God; the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, and the power of the Holy Spirit, go now in peace to serve God in all that you think, do and say. God's peace will always be with you.

All: We go in peace. Amen.

***Closing Response** **"Lift High the Cross v.1"** **#198 (TNCH)**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.
Come Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.

*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.*