

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022 - 9:30 AM

Pastor James Cope and Pastor Janice Garinger



Gathering around the Word

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship

Sung Response

There are angels among us that may not meet the eye.
There are messages of Hope coming from a choir on high.
But don't just look up;
For the way God works
Is to plant more hope right here on earth
just like it was with Jesus' birth.

*Lighting the Candle of Peace

*Prayer of Hope

Leader: Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,

Insert

All: alight withing us your flame of peace this day.

Leader: Grant us openness to hear your message.

All: Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more peace in the midst of fear.

*Hymn

“Mary, Woman of the Promise”

#123 (NCH)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven and free people through the grace of God!

All: Hallelujah! Amen.

*Choral Response

“Angels’ Gloria”

#125 (NCH) refrain

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo,
Glo---ria in excelsis Deo.

Listening for the Word

A Time for the Children of all ages

Choral Preparation

“Breathe On Me Breath of God”

#191(RED)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

The Scripture Reading

First Reading

Psalm 146

Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 26-56

Sermon "Wholehearted Faith" Pastor Jim
Hymn "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise" #106 (NCH)

* Indicates that all who are able. Please stand.
Bold print indicates unison reading.

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Sung Response **Insert**

**There are angels among us that may not meet the eye.
There are messages of Hope coming from a choir on high.
But don't just look up;
For the way God works
Is to plant more hope right here on earth
just like it was with Jesus' birth.**

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response** **Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel** **#88 (RED)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God of peace and possibility, we offer these gifts so that they may be
transformed into your good news for the sake of the world. Amen.**

***Hymn** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" **#131 (NCH)**

***Benediction**

***Closing Response** "No Obvious Angels" **#Insert**

***Postlude**

