

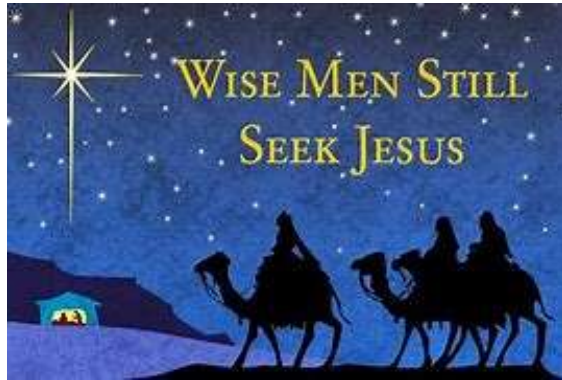
*Emmanuel United Church of Christ*

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome you on this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas Day

January 1, 2023 - 9:30 AM

**Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor Jan Garinger**



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**Gathering around the Word**

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**Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Our Life Together**

**Prelude**

**The Solemn Declaration**

**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.**

**Insert**

**Call to Worship**

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

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

**All: alight within us your flame of joy this day.**

Leader: Grant us openness to hear your message.

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

**\*Hymn**

**"Arise, Your Light and Come"**

**#164 (NCH)**

**Call to Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' Name.

**(Time for silent reflection)**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever!

**All: God will give us strength and restore your spirits. Amen.**

**\*Choral Response**

**"Angels' Gloria"**

**#125 (NCH) refrain**

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

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**Listening for the Word**

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**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*  
*Gospel Reading*

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Matthew 2:1-23

**Sermon**

**"Keeping Herod In Christmas"**

**Pastor Jan**

**Hymn of Thanksgiving**

**"We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

**Insert**

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## Responding to the Word

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### Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

### 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.

Insert

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

\*Hymn    "Go Tell It on the Mountain"    #154 (NCH)

\*Benediction    Pastor Jan

\*Closing Response    "No Obvious Angels"    #Insert

### \*Postlude



\* Indicates that all who are able. Please stand.

**Bold** print indicates unison reading.