

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

January 15, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor

Janice Garinger, Pastor In Care



The Gathering

Ringling 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.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: O God, you called us by name to come, and we respond with delight and gladness.

All: In joyful obedience, we come to worship our God.

Leader: Rising out of the depths of despair, we gratefully gather for worship.

All: In joyful hope, we come to worship our loving God.

Leader: Our God has given us a new song of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

All: In joyful trust, we come to worship our God. Amen!

***Opening Hymn**

“Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped”

#22 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession (unison)

Faithful God, you call us to be saints, but we are more comfortable with the role of sinner. You call us to be your servants, but we worry that we lack the skills to do your work. You put a new song of praise in our mouths, but we stumble on unfamiliar words. You show us the work to be tackled, but we turn away defiant, insisting we have more important things to do. Put your song on our lips and in our hearts, and remind us of the joy that awaits us when we put our trust in you. Guide us into the light of your unwavering, never-ending, and grace-filled love. Amen

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Come, dear friends and receive God’s grace; see all that God is doing for you; follow Jesus, as he leads you closer to God.

All: I will sing of God’s love for me; I will sing a new song of hope and wonder. Thanks be to God! 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.

***Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future.

Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen.

The Gift of the Word

A Time with 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 Readings

Old Testament Lesson *Psalm 40 1-11* New Testament Lesson *1 Corinthians 1: 1-9*

Gospel Lesson *John 1: 29-42*

Sermon “Be Near Me” Pastor Cope

Hymn **“Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”** **#172 (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**

Generous God, you have already given us all that we need. Help us trust your continued care, that we may share with others the abundance of your blessings. Strengthen us for service, and remind us of the great joy that awaits those who answer your call. Accept our gifts and give us new songs of praise as we celebrate the opportunity to be in ministry, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Prayers of the People followed by **The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn** **“I Love to Tell the Story”** **#522 (NCH)**

*Words of Benediction

***Closing Response** **“Lift High the Cross v.1”** **#198 (NCH)**

**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.*