

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

January 22, 2023 - 9:30 AM

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.

***Call to Worship**

(Right side of the congregation: turn to face the other side):

Turn, for the reign of God is at hand!

(Left side: turn to face the others):

Turn and belong to the body of Christ.

(Right side: motion the other side to follow):

Come, follow Jesus, and learn God’s ways together.

(Left side: hold hands outward, palms up, in a sign of welcome):

We will follow Jesus with you.

(Right side: hold hands over your heart):

The kin-dom of God is at hand!

(Left side: wave to the right):

We see you and hear you and know you, the body of Christ!

(ALL: clasp your own hands together):

We are part of the body of Christ, together.

***Opening Hymn**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

#4 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession (unison)

Everlasting God, we confess our tiredness, our sense of overwhelm, the feeling of being burned out. We confess that this leads us to turn inward and care for ourselves first, while our neighbors in need still cry out. Help us, O God, to find ways of letting go of the worldly ways of our daily life that cause us to be sluggish and invigorate us to care for the most vulnerable. Remind us, O God, of the example of Christ who took time to pray and rest, but went on to feed and heal and proclaim Your Good News. Renew our spirits, O God, to let go of what drags us down in the world we have created, the world of empire, and instead live into Your reign on earth as it is in heaven, the beloved community of Christ Jesus our Lord, in which we are one body of many parts, but all in need of one another. Amen

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace be with you.

All: We know Christ’s peace is with us. We are God’s beloved. We will share Christ’s peace with one another and the world in our love and care. 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 27: 1, 4-9*

New Testament Lesson *1 Corinthians 1:10-18* Gospel Lesson *Matthew 4: 12-23*

Sermon "Drop It!" 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**

Use our gifts, Loving God, so others might not be scared by life; so they may be sheltered in the blanket of your grace; so they might find a home with us as their family. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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** "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian" #454 (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.

