Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this 4th Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor Jan Garinger

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: Let all who hunger for God come to God's holy hill!
All: **Blessed are those whose desire is for the Lord; let us lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving.**
Leader: Let all who thirst for God enter the temple of the Lord.
All: **Blessed are those who worship in spirit and in truth. Let us worship God with prayer and praise!**

***Opening Hymn** **"God of Grace and God of Glory"** **#436 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be disciples for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world's scorn and ridicule.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God has called us and blesses us when we live God's ways and not the world's. God's love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions.
All: **The God of blessing loves and forgives us with tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed. 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 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 15*
New Testament Lesson *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 5:1-12*

Sermon *"The 1st Day of Class"* Pastor Jan

Hymn **"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"** **#180 (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, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessings. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer

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

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" Insert**

***Words of Benediction Pastor Jan**

***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.*