

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
We Welcome you on this 6th Sunday After Epiphany
February 12, 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: Those who stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God, are blessed.
All: We are blessed by following God's instructions, doing our best to seek God with all our hearts.
Leader: God has prescribed the right way to live, the way that leads to happiness.
All: Help us, Lord, to keep to the course you set, walking with steady steps all the way.
Leader: Then we will not be looking back over our lives with regrets.
All: Instead, we will have the comfort and joy of God's companionship all our days.

***Opening Hymn** **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** **#43 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you call us to walk in your ways, observe your commandments, and love you as you have loved us. You offer us a community of abundant blessings to satisfy our own wants and desires. We forsake the way of love and forgiveness, giving in to petty jealousies and quarreling, and surrendering our lofty ideals to our dishonorable inclinations. Forgive us, O God. When we flee from your embrace, draw us into community with you and with one another. Shower us with the cleansing waters of humility, that we may reclaim our purpose and find nourishment and growth in labors of love to bring your kingdom in our midst.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God is alive and at work nurturing our growth, nourishing our needs, and reconciling us to one another. God hears the confessions of our hearts and forgives generously, sharing love with all who follow in God's ways.

All: It is through God's amazing grace that we are forgiven. 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.

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 119:1-8*
New Testament Lesson *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 5:21-37*

Sermon

"Change Is Hard"

Pastor Jan

Hymn

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

(Insert)

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**

These offerings belong to you, O Lord, for You are the source of every blessing and joy. Employ these gifts to build Your realm. Send them into the world to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and reconcile us to one another. By our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, make Your church a true instrument of peace. 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** **“There’s a Spirit in the Air”** **#294 (NCH)**

***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.*