

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this Last Sunday After Epiphany
Transfiguration

February 19, 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.

Prayer of Invocation

***Call to Worship**

Leader: It is good to be here in this sacred space,

All: in the shelter of God’s love and hope.

Leader: It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with new friends,

All: joining with all of God’s beloved, sisters and brothers of Jesus.

Leader: It is good to be here, where we can hear God’s voice,

All: calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit’s presence.

***Opening Hymn** **“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”** **#1 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

God of dazzling splendor, we confess that we have lived in a cloud, hiding from your glory and pretending not to notice the wonders of your majesty. The mystery of life eludes us because we take for granted what seems commonplace and refuse to deal with matters beyond our understanding. We have tried to put our religion in a compartment separate from the rest of life. We have not thought to serve you in everyday encounters. Shake our complacency, we pray, and awaken us to new life in all its fullness. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ’s light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

All: In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of God which comes and transfigures our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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**

You call us to service; to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.

To open our eyes not only to the beauty and love which you create, but the injustice, hate and suffering that humankind generates.

To open our ears not only to the chattering of this coming week, but the searching, fears and questioning of all whom we shall meet.

To open our hands not only to those we choose our lives to share, but in welcome, love and fellowship to all who you draw near.

To open our mouths not only to speak platitudes and simple words, but the truths you lay upon our hearts. Your Word for this, your world.

You call us to service, to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.

The Gift of the Word

A Story for 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 Exodus 24: 12-18

New Testament Lesson 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Gospel Lesson *Matthew 17: 1-9*

Sermon “Awe” Pastor Cope

Hymn **“O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder”** **#35 (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**

God of clouds and devouring fire, we are amazed by the experiences of Moses
and the disciples of Jesus. They point us beyond our everyday attempts to be
faithful to you. Enrich our lives in the season we are entering, that we may see
the lamp of your love shining amid the shadows. Let your new day dawn among
us as we invest in your purposes for others. May our gifts bring hope to a world
in need of your love and grace. 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** **“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”** **#182 (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 (**Please be seated for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation**)

*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.*