

*Emmanuel United Church of Christ*  
*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome you on this 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023 - 9:30 AM

**Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor Jan Garinger**

*Bless the  
Lent we  
Actually  
Have*



*3rd Sunday in Lent – Blessed Are Those Who Suffer*

---

*The Gathering*

---

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

Choral Introit      “Come and Find the Quiet Center”      Insert

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

Prayer of Invocation

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: In the midst of our failures,

**All: We stand in God’s grace.**

Leader: In the midst of our struggles,

**All: We boast in our hope through Christ.**

Leader: In the mist of our suffering,

**All: We claim the endurance given by the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: In every part of our lives,

**All: The love of our Divine Creator has been poured into our hearts.**

**\*Opening Hymn      “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”      #403 (NCH)**

---

*The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

---

Call to Confession

**Our Prayer of Confession**

Giver of Life, we know we have shortcomings. In the depth of our hearts, we struggle to leave our failures behind. Teach us that suffering brings endurance, that endurance produces character, and that character brings hope. With Your grace undergirding our lives, grant us the patience and persistence to claim a place in Your Holy Kingdom. May we become Your living water in the wilderness of this world, creating space for your hope and faith.

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: God offers us the assurance that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and loved regardless of what we have done in the past. We have the assurance that we are continually being made new into the Image of Christ.

**All: We know that our slate is wiped clean and we can live in hope toward the future without being enslaved to our past failures.**

**\*Choral Response      “On Eagles Wings”      #775 (NCH)**  
**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

---

*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

First Reading      *Romans 5:1-11*  
Second Reading      *2 Corinthians 1:1-10*

Sermon      “Ouch That Hurts”      Pastor Garinger

Hymn      “Be Still, My Soul”      #488 (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**  
Loving God, we have so many reasons to say “thank You” to You. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding and we pray that the gifts we offer here today and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous without time, talents, and treasures. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. 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**                                      **“Blest Are They”**                                      **Insert**  
Verses 1 - 4 - 5

**\*Words of Benediction**  
God, our bodies remember the sleepless nights and cold sweats and unrelenting stress. Show us how to process all that we suffer. “How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble!” Blessed are we, when we decide to make room for all of it, the fear and the gratitude, the complexity and the suffering. Blessed are we who pour out to you the whole of it—unedited, all the terrible truths and fears and what-ifs. The gratitude for those beautiful hearts in action who came willingly, into the strange and awkward space that is my need. Blessed are we, learning as humans together that pain is inevitable, nurses are wonderful, hospitals are loud, people are brave, and we grow and we hurt and we heal, and then we will do it all over again. Because this beautiful paradox is what it means to be human. Amen

**\*Closing Response**                      **“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**                      **#190 (NCH)**  
Beneath the cross of Jesus, I gladly take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; A home within the wilderness a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.

**\*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.*