

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

We Welcome you on this 2nd Sunday of Easter

April 16, 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: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice.

Leader: Do not worry or fear, for Christ is alive!

All: In this place, we find hope and joy.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Let us worship the One who brings new life.

***Opening Hymn “I Love to Tell the Story” #522 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that many a time, we are more doubters than believers. We doubt Your love for us when we see the oppression, sickness, death, violence against nature, wars, and hatred against each other. Help us to recognize these outcomes of our selfishness, greed, and the evil spirit of dominance. Through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, help us to understand Your sacrificial love for us so that we will love one another. Help us to learn from the courage of Jesus to take up the cross to stand against oppression. Enlighten us as we celebrate resurrection to rise again and again to defeat injustice and to create peace in this world.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus Christ was crucified, died, and was buried. But that is not the end of that story...and it is certainly not the end of our own story. For on the third day Christ rose from the dead.

All: He defeated death once and for all, so that we might live as a redeemed people. Our sins 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 16*
New Testament Lesson *Acts 2:22-32*
Gospel Lesson *John 20:19-31*

Sermon “Is Seeing Really Believing” Pastor Jan

Hymn “We Live by Faith and Not by Sight” #256(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**

Holy One, we give You thanks and praise for Your promise of new life. We thank You for these gifts. As we offer them into Your hands, may they bring hope and new life to those in need. In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray. 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** **“He Lives”** **(Insert)**

***Words of Benediction**

Leader: Let us step out into the world knowing that we are not alone when doubts and fears surround us. The Risen Christ is with us empowering and encouraging us to transform our wounds into sources of liberation.

All: May the power of resurrection, the divine peace, and the empowering grace of the of the Triune God be with us now and forever more. Amen

***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.*