

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Glorious Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor

Janice Garinger, Pastor In Care



The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Prelude and Procession of Light into the Sanctuary

*Call to Worship

Leader: Don't weep! Don't mourn! There is great Good News!

All: Christ the Lord is risen today!

Leader: Put away your garments of mourning; let the light of God's love flood into your lives.

All: Christ the Lord is risen today!

Leader: No more do we have to fear the darkness; it has been overcome by God's light.

All: Christ the Lord is risen today! ALLELUIA!

Announcing the Resurrection – Ringing of the Bells

***Opening Hymn** **“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”** **#233 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

A Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that like the disciples of old, we ran and hid, in our hearts, from the terror and sadness of the crucifixion. We didn't want to be there. We found ways of avoiding the scene and pretending that it was all a bad dream. But it wasn't a dream. Jesus our Lord was crucified. That's a fact. And we were numbed by the news. But now we have been given the most blessed gift of forgiveness for our foolishness and stubbornness. We have been given the gift of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Light has shined in our deep darkness. Restore us again to your presence. Soften our hard hearts. Brighten our spirits, for we ask this in the name of the Resurrected One, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Do not fear. God has conquered death. Jesus Christ, who was crucified, is risen from the dead.

All: Love has been poured out again for each one of us. ALLELUIA! AMEN.

***Choral Response** **“Thine Is the Glory”** **#775 (NCH)**

Thine is the Glory, Resurrected one! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won. Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;

conquered is the grave in which your body lay.

Thine is the glory, Resurrected One!

Endless is the victory you o'er death have one.

The Gift of the Word

A Story for All Ages

Choral Preparation **“Alleluia”** **#765(NCH)**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Gospel Lesson John 20: 1-18

Sermon

“Blessed Are Those Who Hope Still”

Pastor Cope

Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

#403(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**

Thank you, God, for the gift of this amazing day of resurrection! Our hearts are overflowing with the joy and excitement of Easter. We pray that you will take our exuberance and use it to bring light and hope to those trapped in darkness and despair. Use these gifts of money to empower our work with those who have not yet seen the risen Lord in their midst. Use the gift of our very lives to empower our calling to carry your love into the world. We pray this with the boldness of those who have encountered the living Christ. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The God of every morning be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: People of Easter morning, lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.

Leader: People of Easter's joy, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

All: We sing our alleluias to the God of everlasting love.

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Living God. Time after time, you draw us here to inspire us, feed us, and save us. Especially when our love fails, you are here, steadfast and true. You created this world and called it good. You created us to proclaim your good to all. And so, on this day of resurrection, we raise our voices to proclaim this timeless truth:

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen! Christ will come again! Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make us believers and tellers of your word. Make us healers and bestowers of grace. And make us one body in Jesus Christ. All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and for all time! Amen.

Special Music

"How Beautiful"

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving and **Our Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn**

"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

#257 (NCH)

*Words of Benediction

Pastor Cope

***Closing Response**

"Lift High the Cross" verse #1

#198 (NCH)

*Postlude

*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.