

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 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: Within each of our lives there is a longing for community and the presence of God.

All: Sometimes we worry that we will walk alone, unnoticed and afraid.

Leader: This day Christ tells us that we will never be alone. An advocate will share our journey.

All: And this journey calls for us to continue to keep to the teachings of our Lord.

Leader: May the ever present love of God be with you.

All: And may the joy of Christ surround you.

Leader: May we know the presence of the Advocate as we gather in this community of peace, continuing to share the cost of discipleship with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

All: As an Easter people following a Risen Lord, may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“God Is Truly with Us”

#68 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

A Unison Prayer of Confession

Advocate God, it seems, at times, we forget that you know us at our very depth. We become anxious and afraid that you are not with us, and that our lives have lacked meaning and purpose. You have called us to great things, but we focus instead on what we lack, rather than on whose we are. By your mercy, help us to live out the commandments of Christ beyond these walls, beyond this hour, and in so doing, may we become for the world the very presence of justice, hope, and peace.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: All of us have been created and called to be in community. Know this, but more importantly, live this: As God’s children, we are loved and equipped for great ministry.

All: We will strive to follow Jesus’ commandment to love boldly as we are held in the grace and love of God. Indeed our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

***Choral Response**

“Gloria Patri”

#759 (NCH)

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

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 66: 8-20

Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 3: 13-22

Gospel Lesson John 14: 15-21

Sermon

“Witness of Love”

Pastor Cope

Hymn

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

#63 (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**

May these gifts, O God, become action and intention, fulfilling Christ’s commandment to love. Amen.

The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer

Prayers of the People

Our Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” #304 (NCH)**

*Words of Benediction

Leader: Now, go back into the world from which you have come.

All: There may we let love be true and freely given.

Leader: And may you be encouraged and blessed by the Advocate

All: whose love warms and surrounds us like the sun.

Leader: Believe that God is with you always,

All: as close as our beating hearts. Alleluia! Amen!

Leader: And may the blessing of God be upon you, body, mind, and spirit, as you leave this place, 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.