

# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

## A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 21, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor     Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care



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### *The Gathering*

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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: Welcome! We are gathered here to celebrate the great promise!  
**All: Our hearts are ready to receive this good news.**  
Leader: Jesus asked all of his friends to live lives reflecting the love of God.  
**All: We are numbered among these friends!**  
Leader: Open your hearts today. Hear God’s special word just for you!  
**All: Lord, help us to be ready to receive your word and to live in your love.**

**\*Opening Hymn**                    **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**                    **#43 (NCH)**  
   Sung to the alternate tune *Hyfrydol* #257

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### *The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

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Call to Confession

**The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**Patient God, it hasn’t been easy for us to be disciples or witnesses to your love. We get caught in traps of anger, impatience and fear. Our words and spirits become cynical and jaded. Yet, at all times, you are with us, guiding and guarding us. On this day in which we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, we are reminded that we are not being left without guidance. The promise of the Spirit is given and in that promise we have hope and courage to become true disciples. Forgive us when we forget that! Forgive us when we act as though you didn’t care about us or about this world. We are called to be those who live the faith of hope and reconciliation, of courage and understanding. Lift us up when we have fallen, guide our hearts when we speak, for it is in the name of our risen Savior Jesus that we ask these things. Amen.**

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Celebrate, dear friends! God’s Spirit will be coming to you to give you hope and courage.

**All: This is the good news which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. 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.**

**A Story for All Ages and Dismissal to Sunday School**

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### *The Gift of the Word*

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The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35  
New Testament Lesson Acts 1 6-14  
Gospel Lesson John 17: 1-11

Sermon    “What Now?”    Pastor Cope

**Hymn**    **“O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven”**                    **#47 (NCH)**

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*Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts*

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**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**

**With joy and confidence in your abiding love and presence with us, we present these gifts, tokens of our lives, as an offering for service in and to this world which you have entrusted to us. Bless these gifts and bless all those who place their trust in you. Amen.**

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*The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer*

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Prayers of the People and **Our Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

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*The Gathered Go Forth to Serve*

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**\*Hymn**                                      **“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**                                      **#76 (NCH)**

**\*Words of Benediction**

Leader: Continue to be faithful, remain committed, be witnesses for Christ.

**All: For the God of all grace has called us to eternal glory through Jesus Christ, and will fulfill, restore, strengthen, and establish us through suffering and struggle.**

Leader: Go forth from this place, empowered by Christ’s love,

**All: with Christ’s name on our lips,**

Leader: the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,

**All: God’s love in our hearts,**

Leader: God’s beloved ones always in your sight, and

**All: God’s still speaking voice in our ears.**

**\*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.