

# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 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: On an ordinary Sunday we come to worship God:

**All: we come, trusting God will speak to us; we come, hoping God will surprise us.**

Leader: On this day, like every other day, we seek to follow Jesus:

**All: we follow, believing Jesus will be with us; we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.**

Leader: On this day, we lift our souls to God’s Spirit:

**All: we open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us; we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

**“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

**#86 (NCH)**

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## *The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

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Call to Confession

### **Our Prayer of Confession**

How easily we pat ourselves on the back Listening Love, for the lives we lead. We welcome the praise of others, but have little compassion for those who have failed us. We assume that a comfortable life is our birthright, yet believe poor choices produce suffering for those around us. We boast of the good we do, but forget to thank you for all that you have given us. Forgive us, Companion of Compassion, for breaking your heart, and disappointing your hopes for us. As we seek to follow your Child, may we be found with those whose lives are barren, with those who know little laughter in their day, with those who have received no love from others – for in their presence, we will find Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Listen to the good news – the kingdom of God is very near. As close as a child’s laughter, as embracing as a father’s love, as enfolding as a mother’s caress.

**All: We are God’s people: called, that we may follow; gifted that we may serve; forgiven, that we might bring hope. 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.**

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## *The Gift of the Word*

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**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    Genesis 18: 1-15

New Testament Lesson    Romans 5: 1-8

Gospel Lesson    Matthew 9: 35 – 10:8

Sermon "Following" Pastor Cope  
Hymn "I Am Yours, O Lord" #455 (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**

Where the broken are, may we bring them healing. Where the lonely are, may we be their family. Where the hungry are, may we offer them hope. Wherever, and however, we find your people, O God, may we go to share the gifts you have given to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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*The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer*

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Prayers of the People - **The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

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*The Gathered Go Forth to Serve*

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**\*Hymn** "O Savior, Let Me Walk with You" #503 (NCH)

\*Words of Benediction

**\*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.