

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

We Welcome you on this 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 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: Come in from busy, summertime days to this place of worship.

All: We come to connect with God’s word.

Leader: Come in from the stress of everyday life into the light of knowledge.

All: We come as seekers of truth.

Leader: Come into worship with offerings of praise.

All: We come to hear the word and respond.

***Opening Hymn “Praise to the Living God” #8 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

God our Redeemer, the words of our mouths often lead to hurt and harm. We tear down when we could build up. We speak of death and destruction when the power of life resides in our tongues. We say what is unnecessary and unhelpful while hesitating to offer encouragement and hope. Transform our speech as you write your word into our hearts. Stir us to speak life, joy, and love in all things.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Romans 8:1 tells us, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” God does not shame or condemn; rather, the One who is holy makes us holy, restored, and whole.

All: We will receive the grace of God as it is freely given. We will be empowered by the One who observes us and declares us good.

***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

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 119:105-112*

New Testament Lesson *Romans 8:1-11*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23*

Sermon *“Planting God’s Seeds ”* Pastor Jan

Hymn **“In the Bulb There Is a Flower” #433 (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 thank you for revealing yourself to us and through us with
abundance and flourishing. Give us generous hearts. May our offerings offer
a testimony honoring Your provision and giving glory to Your name.
Receive these gifts and magnify them for the needs of Your creation. 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** **“Pass it On”** **(Insert)**

***Words of Benediction** **Pastor Jan**

***Closing Response** **“On Eagles Wings”** **#775 (NCH)**
And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.

***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.*