Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this 5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 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: O Sing to God a song of joy,
All: For we have been greeted by our God.
Leader: O Dance for God a waltz of welcome,
All: For we have been embraced by our God.
Leader: O Create for God a portrait of hope,
All: For we have been inspired by our God. Amen.

***Opening Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #347 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that, though we claim to love you, our lives do not always reflect that love. We offer hospitality out of obligation instead of love, out of care for our own well-being instead of that of others. We hesitate to welcome others out of fear of rejection instead of extending compassion as the fruit of your love for us. In our relationships at work, home, and even church, too often we choose expediency instead of integrity, believing the ends justify the means. Help us, we pray. Free us to live as your children who welcome, nurture, and love our neighbors as we learn to grow as disciples of Christ.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God is compassionate and forgiving. God gives us the gift of abundant love and grace. God will never leave us or forsake us.
All: We 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

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 13*
New Testament Lesson *Romans 6:12-23*
Gospel Lesson Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon *"Are You Thirsty?"* Pastor Jan

Hymn "As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams" #481 (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**

Spirit of God, when we share from our souls, we open our hearts to Your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbors who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When we welcome the prophet who shares Your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they build Your Realm here on earth. 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

"An Independence Day Prayer" by Margaret Cagle

***Hymn "This is My Song" #591 (NCH)**

***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.*