

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

We Welcome you on this 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 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: As we harvest our growing abundance in this time of mid-summer,
may we relish in the fruit of our labor.

**All: As we harvest the fruitful seed of nature and God’s Garden, let us
share in the bounty with our neighbors.**

Leader: While we channel resources – water, light, fertile ground to produce
what we desire in our gardens,

**All: may we also recognize that the butterfly, the rabbit, and the
caterpillar also have need for sustenance.**

Leader: We have enough, and an attitude of plentifulness increases through
sharing.

**All: What our land grows through our tending, is only ours for a
moment in time, filling a short term and immediate need. May
we share of the harvest by giving back to nature, feeding the
hungry among us, storing for the future without hoarding, and
setting aside enough seed for the next season’s planting.**

*Opening Hymn

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

#226 (Red)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

God of creation and plenty, it can be easy for us to forget the abundant
nature of your love. We forget that there are ample riches from this earth if
we manage your resources, you and we share generously among all your
beloved children. We forget that we are all created in your divine beauty,
perfect specimens of your holy vision for a people who can love without
bounds, share without tallying, and celebrate among the great diversity you
created to thrive together. Guide us to give of that abundance, to receive
with grace and gratitude, and to turn our hearts from the perception of
scarcity. We confess that we fall short; and we ask that you show us the
path again to your fruitful garden where all things grow and flourish.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Know that God has always provided us with growth and abundance and
will continue to guide us in the care of bounteous fields that spring forth
with plants and animals, both weeds and seeds.

**All: We are all worthy of this enduring joy and sustenance as beloved
children of God.**

*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 86:11-17*
New Testament Lesson *Romans 8:12-25*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

Sermon "This Doesn't Taste Right" Pastor Jan

Hymn "This is My Father's World" #65 (Red)

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**

Just as Your word is a light to our path, Holy One, may our offering of praise be a light to the world. In this season of fruitful gardens, help us share bountiful harvest of our own making. Whether our offering be of our time, wealth, or prayer, receive and multiply our gifts through the glory of Your love. 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** "Nearer My God to Thee" #318 (Red)

***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.*