

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

We Welcome you on this 9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 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: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.
All: It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.
Leader: When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.
All: Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.
Leader: God’s transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts.
All: Lord, plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in your name. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Be Now My Vision”

#451 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Loving God, as we seek you, search our hearts and ease our troubled spirits. Where we are frightened and unsure of your love, restore us with the assurance of your grace. Even when we give up too easily, we long for the courage to reach for new beginnings. We yearn to know deep in our bones that nothing in heaven or on earth can separate us from your great love.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Remember, beloved children of God, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all of creation, can separate us from the love of God.

All: We give thanks to God for this marvelous gift.

***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 128*
New Testament Lesson *Romans 8:26-39*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52*

Sermon

“The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...?”

Pastor Jan

Hymn

“Jesus, I Live to You”

#457 (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**

Lord, receive our gifts and our lives. Cause all of these blessings to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us for safekeeping. In Christ’s Name, we pray. 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** **“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”** **#282 (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.*