

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

We Welcome you on this 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 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: Welcome! It is good to have you here today.

All: Thank you. We come seeking healing and peace for our spirits.

Leader: God is with us, giving wondrous healing love to each one of us.

All: Blessed be God who watches over us.

Leader: Come, let us praise God with thankful hearts.

All: Lord, we come to You in gratitude for all You do for us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

#4 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery. The desires of the world would shape us into people You would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from Your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but You are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, the oppressed. Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for You in the wrong places. Reawaken us with Your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with Your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and as our Savior, and go forth to serve Your people in Christ's name.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: It's too easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness, that power will earn us grace. But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live like servants, we will find true freedom.

All: Not only our minds, but our hearts and spirits will be transformed into the likeness of Christ, enabling us to be faithful disciples. 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 124*

New Testament Lesson *Romans 12:1-8*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 16:13-20*

Sermon

“Who Am I”

Pastor Jan

Hymn

“There Is a Name I love to Hear”

#52 (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

We will not proclaim our faith with our words only, but with our lives and these gifts we offer to You, O God, we pray that others might be transformed by your grace, Your hope, and your peace. 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

“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

#393 (NCH)

*Words of Benediction

Leader: We are called to do God’s work in our communities,

All: and so, we go out at God’s side to love others.

Leader: We are called to serve every person, in every place,

All: and so, we go to work at the side of Jesus in the world.

Leader: We are called to proclaim peace, and live it in our lives,

All: and so, we go to be on the Spirit’s side.

*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.