

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

We Welcome you on this 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor Jan Garinger



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*The Gathering*

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**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 time for harvest is at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

**All: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.**

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

**All: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.**

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

**All: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**            **“Come O Thankful People Come”**            **#422 (NCH)**

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*The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

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**Call to Confession**

**Our Prayer of Confession**

**All You ask of us is to love one another, God of our lives, and You are more than willing to teach us how. Yet we find this simple request so hard to carry out, this easy lesson so difficult to learn. Someone cuts us off in traffic, and we curse them. Another person buys something that we want but cannot afford, and we overflow with jealousy. A friend gets the praise that we wanted, and we whisper about them behind their backs. Forgive us, Merciful God, and unclasp our hands from our grudges. With Christ in our midst, we can become the people that You want us to be: loving, merciful, gentle and compassionate children of God.**

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Gathered as God's people, we hear the good news: God has forgiven us, God has made us whole, God sends us to serve.

**All: We will not wear jealousy or resentment, but put on the garments of peace and hope. We are forgiven by our 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.**

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*The Gift of the Word*

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**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 149*  
New Testament Lesson *Romans 14:1-12*  
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 18:15-20*

**Sermon**            **“Where Are My Keys?”**            **Pastor Jan**

**Hymn**            **“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”**            **#459 (NCH)**

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*Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts*

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**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**

May our gifts go forth into our world, so that where people hunger, they may be fed; where there is war, peace might be welcomed; where families are broken, they may be made whole. And that others will be as blessed as we have been by Your love, grace, and compassion. In Jesus' name, we offer our gifts and this prayer of gratitude. Amen.

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*The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer*

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**Prayers of the People - The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

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*The Gathered Go Forth to Serve*

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**\*Hymn                   “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”                   #476 (NCH)**

**\*Words of Benediction**

Leader: Go now to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

**All: We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with everyone.**

Leader: Go now to those who are at odds with neighbors.

**All: We will offer the peace and reconciliation which God has poured into our lives.**

Leader: Go now to those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

**All: We will bring the healing, the grace, the love of our God.**

**\*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.