

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

We Welcome you on this 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 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: Bless the Holy One with our whole selves. Praise the Maker of our being!
All: Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.
Leader: The Sovereign One endows us with many gifts and equips us to do good work.
All: Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.
Leader: Holy Love entered the world without condemnation but with grace and forgiveness, mercy and compassion, redemption and restoration.
All: Hallelujah! We give thanks for the mighty deeds and the good works of our God!

***Opening Hymn**

Praise to the Living God”

#8 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgmental and hypercritical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow Your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In Your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as You forgive.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Beloved, grace has always been part of God’s relationship with us. God does not want us condemned or held captive by unresolved anger leading to bitterness.

All: We know that God desires for us to be both forgiven and a forgiver so that we may live a life that is whole, free, and flourishing.

***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 *Exodus 16:2-15*
New Testament Lesson *Romans 14:1-12*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 18:21-35*

Sermon

“Could You Forgive?”

Pastor Jan

Hymn "Be Now My Vision" #451 (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

Merciful God, receive our humble offerings as a testimony to Your provision and a demonstration of our love. May they be magnified and multiplied for the benefit of our community and all creation. 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 "God of Grace and God of Glory" #436 (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.