

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

We Welcome you on this 17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 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: Come! Now is the time to worship!

All: We come to worship God who provides!

Leader: Jesus tells a story of vineyard workers, some who work all day and some who work mere hours, yet the generous landowner paid all of them equally.

All: God provides in unexpected ways.

Leader: God does provide in unexpected ways, yet manna, quail, and grapes need gathering and harvesting.

All: We respond to God’s provision by gathering and harvesting all that God provides.

Leader: Come! Now is the time to worship!

All: We come to worship and partner with God who provides for the long haul!

***Opening Hymn** **“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”** **#6 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

It seems we cannot make up our mind, God of Glory. We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our own needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take Him with us wherever we go. We believe that the gospel can transform lives, (at least, for those who need it – but surely, not us). Forgive us, Presence of Peace. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts of mercy, of restoration, and of new life.

All: God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven; we have been made new people. 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 145:1-8*
New Testament Lesson *Philippians 1:21-30*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 20:1-19*

Sermon "That's Not Fair!" Pastor Jan

Hymn "Here I Am Lord" **Insert**

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

With hope in our hearts, we offer our gifts to you, O God, trusting you will use them in the work of Your kingdom which welcomes all, loves all, needs all, and serves all. In Jesus' 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** "God Be with You" #81 (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.*