

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

We Welcome you on this 14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 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: Gathered as God's people, we come to worship together:
All: singing praises to the One who loves us, opening our hearts to the One who calls us.
Leader: Called to be followers of Jesus, we come to share our lives together:
All: to celebrate the joys of our hearts, to mingle our tears with God's.
Leader: Challenged to become partners with the Spirit, we will seek peace and hope:
All: offering our food to our enemies, giving a drink of water to those who have drained our souls.

***Opening Hymn**

“This Is the Day”

#84 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Holy Savior, we could live at peace with others, but we choose to do wrong to them; we could welcome those we do not know, but choose to close our hearts; we could make outsiders our best friends, but choose the safety of our cliques. Forgive us, Genuine Love, for our foolish choices. Hold on to our shaky lives, until we learn to clasp Your goodness to our hearts, so we can give it away to those around us. Whisper Your grace and hopes to us, until we can stop cursing our enemies, and bless them as our friends. Smooth the rough edges of our arrogance, until we become polished enough to win the gold in being honorable. Then, we would put aside our stumbling blocks to discipleship, so we can follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as He leads us to Your way of denial and life.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. Friends, this is the good news offered to us!

All: We are God's children, called to be different, called to act differently, called to live as new people. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. 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 *Psalms 119:33-40*
New Testament Lesson *Romans 16:9-21*
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 16:21-28*

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| Sermon | "Who Knew" | Pastor Jan |
| Hymn | "I Would Be True" | #492 (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**
Tempted to turn away, You remind us that we stand on holy ground when we walk with the lonely, work beside those seeking justice, bring hope to the forgotten, and share from our abundance with those who have nothing. 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** **"Jesus, I Live to You"** **#457 (NCH)**

***Words of Benediction**
Leader: Take the love of God into the world.
All: We will be genuine in sharing this with everyone we meet.
Leader: Take the grace of Jesus into your communities.
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 walk by 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.