

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this 21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023 - 9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care



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: Each morning, God’s grace awakens us, each evening, God’s peace cradles us.

All: Compassion is our constant companion, as we go through work, school...the day.

Leader: In every moment, God is present with us; God whispers words which can change our lives.

All: Justice is our faithful teacher, pointing to where we can carry our fairness.

Leader: When we find ourselves groping in the shadows, God’s light will provide a way home.

All: We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us; we return home, and find a feast prepared.

***Opening Hymn** **“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”** **#1 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we place our trust in tangible things – things we can see and touch – and question whether you are really there. Forgive us, Holy One, when we fail to recognize that you are always nearby, patiently waiting for us to recognize your presence and your glory. Help us when we lose our way, and forgive us when we forget to whom we truly belong. O God, you who loves justice, open our eyes to see you; open our ears to hear you; and open our hearts to love you; and open our hands to serve you.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality, but offers grace and peace to all.

All: God has heard our prayers and done the very thing we asked – forgiven us, healed us, restored us. 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 Apostles’ Creed** **#881 (NCH)**

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children of all ages

Choral Preparation **“Spirit of the Living God”** **#283 (NCH)**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

The Scripture Readings

Exodus 33: 12-23

New Testament Lesson 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Gospel Lesson Matthew 22: 15-22

Sermon "Fairest Lord Jesus...Indeed" Pastor Cope

Hymn "Beautiful Jesus" #44 (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**

God, source of all that is, lover of justice and source of equity, help us live boldly and truthfully as we seek to follow your ways. Embolden us to share with others the gift of grace that you have so abundantly given us. Receive and bless these gifts that we return to you now. In the name of the One who gives us life, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn "Praise to the Living God" #8 (NCH)**
#Insert

*Words of Benediction

***Closing Response "Lift High the Cross v.1" #198 (NCH)**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.
Come Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.**

*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.*