

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

We Welcome you on this 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 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: God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All: Before the mountains were brought forth,**

Leader: before the earth and sky were formed,

**All: God was from everlasting to everlasting.**

Leader: We come to worship this day,

**All: that God may gather us in.**

Leader: We will be close to God’s heart,

**All: and we will dwell in God’s grace.**

Leader: We will love God fully,

**All: and we will love one another.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”**

**#4 (NCH)**

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*The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

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**Call to Confession**

**Our Prayer of Confession**

**God of Mercy, we hear your command to love one another. These words are easy to say, yet so difficult to do. If only loving could be as natural as breathing, but it takes work and dedication. Even when we think we are following you, God, it is easy to get distracted, overwhelmed, turned around, and even lost. We turn to the loud praise of the world, rather than the quiet whisper of your blessings. We do the simple, the least-resistant, and leave the difficult behind. Turn us around, God. Turn us back to you when we have wandered, when we have suffered, or when we bring suffering on others. Show us once more what love looks like and send us into the world to try again.**

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: When we lose our way; when we are confused and confounded, God waits with compassion, to turn us back to love, to grace, to God’s own face.

**All: This is good news. We are forgiven. 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.**

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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 90:13-17*

New Testament Lesson *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 22:34-46*

**Sermon**

*“Can You Pass The Test?”*

Pastor Jan

Hymn                      “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”                      #290 (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

Gracious God, you have given us mercy. You have given us love. You have been our calling, and you have been our home. Take now our hands and feet, O God, and use them for your purposes. Take now the offering of our hearts, minds, and souls. Transform them into your love, your mercy, and your everlasting grace for all of the world. 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                      “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”                      #393 (NCH)

\*Words of Benediction    Pastor Jan

\*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.