

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

We Welcome you on this 24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 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: We gather to worship our God:

All: not only with those whose hearts overflow with joy, but with those who long to offer their deepest sorrows.

Leader: We gather to follow Jesus:

All: not only with songs and prayers, but with lives of service and peace.

Leader: We gather to be filled with the Spirit's presence:

All: not only so we can wait patiently for the Bridegroom to come, but so we can be with those who are impatient for justice and hope in their lives.

***Opening Hymn**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

#43 (RED)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. We have moved you to a time on our weekly calendars. Yet you are the eternal God who always loves us and is ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are not lost to God.

All: God calls us to be ready for God’s new kingdom. In all this God is with us. 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 78:1-7*

New Testament Lesson *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 25:1-13*

Sermon

“Be Prepared”

Pastor Jan

Hymn

“Give Me Oil In My Lamp”

(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**
Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to you. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. 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** **“Take My Life And Let It Be”** **#253 (RED)**

***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.*