



## Emmanuel United Church of Christ

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**We Welcome You on this**

*Thanksgiving Sunday*

**Service of the Word – November 19, 2023**

**9:30 AM**

**Pastor James Cope**

**Pastor in Care Janice Garinger**

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### **The Gathering**

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Ringling of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

**\*Hymn**

**“Now Thank We All Our God”**

**#72 (RED)**

Call to Worship

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**All: We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.**

Leader: God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.

**All: God fed our ancestors in the wilderness, God clothes us with hope.**

Leader: We will offer our hearts to God, always saying, ‘Thank you!’ to the One who loves us.

**All: We will sing our praises, shouting of God’s presence in our lives.**

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### **The Refreshment of Forgiveness**

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#### **The Unison Prayer of Confession**

**The season of Thanksgiving provides an opportunity for us to take stock of God’s blessings, and to reflect on our response to those blessings.**

**Our Creator, you have made an intricate and diverse world, and set us to cultivate it reverently and responsibly. When we forget our connection with all of creation, forgive us, O God.**

**Our Creator, you have made a world of abundance and intend for us to share so that all may have their “daily bread.” When we lose the sense of hospitality and community, forgive us, O God.**

**Our Creator, you have sent us Jesus, the “Bread of Life” to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst. When we do not respond to his justice and mercy, forgive us, O God.**

**Every day and all day let us shape our very lives by focusing our minds on what is beautiful and worthy of praise. When we forget that you make all things possible, forgive us, O God.**

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We have offered to God the concerns of our hearts and minds. We trust that God not only hears our prayers, but in God’s almighty wisdom and awareness of our needs does answer our prayers. We are a forgiven people.

**All: We don’t say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.**

**\*Choral Response (sung)**

**“We Praise Thee, O God”**

**#19(RED)**

**A Litany of Thanksgiving for our Many Blessings**

**Insert**

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### **The Gift of the Word**

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A Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Psalter Reading: Psalm 65

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

New Testament Lesson: Luke 17: 11-19

Sermon

“A Time for Gratitude”

Pastor Cope

**Hymn**

**“Praise to God, Immortal Praise”**

**#435 (RED)**

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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**

**O God, we have come, and what a delight it has been! We come before you in this moment with our gifts – gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of trust. We thank you for the chance to give, and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same. Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

