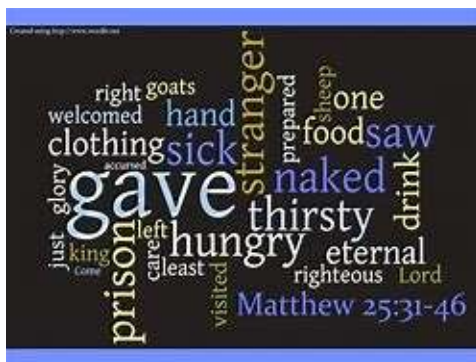


*Emmanuel United Church of Christ*  
*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome you on this 26th Sunday after Pentecost

November 26, 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: Make a joyful noise, a noise of service and love.  
**All: Praise God with lives of compassion.**  
Leader: Sing with acts of kindness.  
**All: Glorify God with acts of mercy.**  
Leader: Praise God with works of justice.  
**All: Praise God with overflowing love.**

**\*Opening Hymn**                   **“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**                   **#304 (NCH)**

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*The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

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**Call to Confession**

**Our Prayer of Confession**

Gathering God, this week, we threw an extra can of (on sale) veggies in our overflowing grocery carts; we donated that old coat we haven't worn in a couple of years to the thrift store; we re-gifted a bouquet to a neighbor in the hospital. Did you notice? Or were you too busy cleaning the guest room for the immigrant couple; buying hats and gloves for all the kids in the school near your home; sitting by the bed of a hospice patient after the family left for the night. We spend so much time patting ourselves on the back, that we do not notice how you are constantly searching the ends of the earth for all your children, Merciful God, even going into the very grip of death to bring us all new life. Give us the faith to live as your people, and the wisdom to let go of all that you have poured into our lives, even as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: God feeds the hungry and gives hope to the parched.

**All: That's us.**

Leader: God brings healing to the sick and visits those imprisoned.

**All: That's us.**

Leader: God wraps warmth around the shivering, and knits a sweater for the naked.

**All: That's us.**

Leader: God loves every person, forgives every person, cares for every person.

**All: That's 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.**

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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 100*  
New Testament Lesson *Ephesians 1:15-23*  
Gospel Lesson *Matthew 25:31-46*

**Sermon** "I've Been Waiting" Pastor Jan  
**Hymn** "God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" #531 (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**

We may not be hungry, but there are those who are. We may not be parched from thirst, but there are those who are. We may not worry about health care, or have someone in prison, or have to wear clothes tossed aside by others, but many of our siblings find themselves in such lives. But we have been blessed by you. So may these gifts we offer be used so that everyone might know your community of compassion, of hope, and of grace. This we ask in the name of Jesus. 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** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" #495 (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.*