

# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024 - 9:30 AM

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



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## Gathering around the Word

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Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

**Our Life Together**

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

**Choral Introit**     **"How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place"**  
(Solo then Congregation)

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, my God!**

**How lovely is your dwelling place, is your dwelling place, O God!**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather to respond to the call of God's love.

**All: Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.**

Leader: May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

**All: Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.**

Leader: Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

**All: May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.**

**\*Hymn**

**"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

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## The Refreshment of Forgiveness

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Call to Confession

**The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them.**

**Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Now, after we confess, we hear the good news proclaimed: God hears our words, God sees our changed hearts, God's steadfast love is poured out upon us!

**All: We will trust in God, in whom our salvation rests. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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

Prayer for Illumination and the Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson    Psalm 62: 5-12

Gospel Lesson    Mark 1: 14-20

Sermon

**"I"**

Pastor Cope

**Hymn**

**"Take Time to Be Holy"**

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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**  
**May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the love of God reaches all of God’s beloved. Amen.**

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**The Ministry of Prayer**

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Pastoral Prayer *followed by* **The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

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**The Gathered Go Forth to Serve**

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**\*Hymn**                                    **“Where He Leads Me”**                                    **#Insert**

**\*Charge**

Leader: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**All: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

Leader: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**All: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

Leader: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

**All: We will bring others near to the kingdom where all are welcome.**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Closing Response**                    **“Lift High the Cross v.1”**                    **#198 (TNCH)**

**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.**