

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

We Welcome you on this Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024 - 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 **“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!

Prayer of Invocation

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather in this sacred space,

All: to offer our thanks to God with all of our hearts.

Leader: We gather with this community of faith,

All: to follow Jesus, who longs to lead us into life.

Leader: We gather in these moments,

All: to learn all we can of grace from the Holy Spirit.

***Opening Hymn**

“Praise to the Living God”

#8 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

We come on this holy day, God our God, to speak of how we live. Politicians, celebrities, talk show folks have become our so-called gods. Our choices often cause those around us to trip over our anger and slip on our pride. The words we speak to others show how we really want nothing to do with you. Forgive us, Holy God, and have mercy on us. May we silence our fears, so words of hope may be spoken. May we give thanks not only with our hearts but with the grace we can share with others. May justice and peace be the tools we use as we serve beside Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.

All: Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news, and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet. 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

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Psalter Lesson Psalm 111

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:21-28

Sermon

“The Simplest Can Be the Best”

Pastor Jan

Hymn

“Great is Your Faithfulness”

#423 (NCH)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

