Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this Transfiguration and Scout Sunday
February 11, 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: You are with us, God of sunrises:
All: **You awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.**
Leader: You are with us, Inviting God:
All: **calling us to respond to all the chances to share the spirit of grace and hope.**
Leader: You are with us, Glory of God:
All: **gathering us into the presence of Your peace, listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.**

***Opening Hymn** **"All Things Bright and Beautiful"** **#31 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

The radiance of your grace is poured out in every moment, Shaper of mountaintops, but we dull its luster by living in the shadows. We indulge in fantasy games and watch shows which claim to be 'real,' but we have trouble simply sitting in your presence, in your healing silence. We can become so infatuated with your love for us, we overlook those who hunger for acceptance and hope. Revealer of mystery, forgive us. In silence, may we hear your whispers of grace. In mercy, may we feel your forgiveness lifting the burden of guilt from us. In trust, may we go forth to serve your world, filling it with the light and love of the One who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The promise is true--God's Light has come into the world, and into our lives. We are graced with glimpses of God's glory, even as we are filled with mercy and forgiveness.
All: **Here we find the peace and quiet we need; here we are set free from all that keeps us from serving; here we are given mercy and hope. Here we give thanks to our 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.

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children of all ages

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson	Psalm 50:1-6
New Testament Lesson	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Gospel Lesson	Mark 9:2-9

Sermon *"Living in the Moment"* Pastor Jan

Hymn **"O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair"** **#184 (NCH)**

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**

We could remember the giants of the past, or serve the little ones of today; we could build grand facilities, or restore neighbors; we could stay on mountaintops, or go into the valleys of loneliness with our arms full of grace. May our lives and gifts we offer be used in your work of justice and hope, 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** **"Shine Jesus Shine"** **(Insert)**

***Words of Benediction** Pastor Jan

Leader: God sends us from this sacred space.
All: **We will go to share the good news of grace, to offer healing to the broken.**
Leader: Jesus would not have us stay here forever.
All: **We will go to find our sisters and brothers in the valleys of injustice and the neighborhoods of addiction.**
Leader: The Spirit fills us with the gifts we need as we leave.
All: **We will go to help rebuild the lives of those around us, to share feasts of hope and peace with everyone.**

***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.*