

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

We Welcome you on this Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Pastor James Cope and Pastor Janice Garinger



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*The Gathering*

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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: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

**All: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!**

Leader: Come and let us worship with great joy!

**All: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!**

Leader: God is about to do something new in our lives!

**All: Let God’s will become strong in our lives. Amen.**

**Special Music**

**“He Will Hold Me Fast”**

**Dave Beckley**

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*The Refreshment of Forgiveness*

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**Call to Confession**

**Our Prayer of Confession**

Patient Lord, we find it easy to blame others and other circumstances for the things which happen in our lives. We hear the words “if only” and wonder why things didn’t happen differently for us. Too often we want you to be a “magic” presence which will, with the wave of a wand, cure our ills, give us success and happiness; but we don’t necessarily want to take responsibility for our attitudes and actions. Things happen which we didn’t plan for and events swirl around us over which we have no control. But to place blame and not to find ways in which we can work through the situations is detrimental to everyone, especially ourselves. Forgive us when we are so busy placing blame that we don’t recognize your presence and love for us. Free us from placing our own desires first and foremost. Help us to look at the many ways in which you are working in the world for peace and justice, and enable us to be part of that ministry.

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Let go of your fears. God has forgiven you and offered to you God’s healing love.

**All: We will accept this free gift, for it is given for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Choral Response**

**“Be Now My Vision”**

**#451(NCH)vs 2**

***Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;***  
***ever within me, my soul is assured—***  
***Mother and Father, you are both to me,***  
***new and forever your child I will be.***

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*The Gift of the Word*

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**A Time with the Children of all ages**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**The Scripture Readings**

Old Testament Lesson	Psalm 126
New Testament Lesson	Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel Lesson	Mark 14:1-11

**Sermon**

***“Never Forgotten”***

**Pastor Garinger**

**Hymn**

**“A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost”**

**#206(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**  
Extravagant God, how lavishly you pour out the costly gift of your grace upon us. Inspire us to give with generosity, to love life so that we may find it again. May our gifts help those in need and the world to be filled with the fragrance of your love; through Jesus Christ, who offers himself for all of us. Amen.

**Special Music**                                      **“You Say”**                                      **Dave Beckley**

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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**                                      **“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**                                      **#224 (NCH)**

**\*Words of Benediction**

Leader: Go now into the world. Go now, following the example of our Lord Jesus.

**All: Let our lives reflect God’s love and grace.**

Leader: May your lives reflect the life and teachings of Jesus.

**All: We will go and continue on this Lenten journey.**

Leader: In this journey grow ever closer to Jesus Christ and ever growing in God’s love.

**All: We go now in God’s peace. Amen**

**\*Closing Response**                      **“Beneath the Cross of Jesus-v.1”**                      **#190 (NCH)**

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;**

**A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.**

**\*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.