

# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 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: Good people of the church, lift up your eyes and see.

**All:    Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God greets us here.**

Leader: Good servants of the Most High, open your ears to hear.

**All:    Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God meets us here.**

Leader: Good children of the light, open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

**All:    For we have seen, heard, and known from the beginning to the end... Our God...is.**

Opening Prayer

\*Hymn

“Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”

#6 (NCH)

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## The Refreshment of Forgiveness

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Call to Confession

**The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. You speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don’t have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus. Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, Never-wearied God, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children.**

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Have you not been listening? God never tires out, nor is there an expiration date on God’s forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

**All:    If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! 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

Prayer for Illumination and the Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson    Psalm 147: 1-11, 20  
New Testament Lesson    1 Corinthians 9: 16-23  
Gospel Lesson    Mark 1: 29-39

Sermon

“God of the Dark”

Pastor Cope

Hymn

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

#489 (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**

**You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may pour them out for those around us. Take what we offer and use them in that kingdom work which strengthens the weary, feeds the hungry, and gives hope to the despairing. 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**                      **“Immortal Love, Forever Full”**                      **#166 (NCH)**

**\*Charge**

Leader: As it is a gift that we may serve God,

**All: let us now go forth, accepting the ministry to which each one is surely called,**

Leader: rejoicing in the blessing of our creator God,

**All: continually renewed in the life of Jesus Christ,**

Leader: and hoping in the presence of the Spirit.

**All: We go with joy. We leave in peace.**

**\*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.***