

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 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: Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

All: Only in God do we find our rest.

Leader: Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

All: Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions.

Leader: Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

All: Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

Leader: Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another as we reflect on our Lenten journey.

All: Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

#459 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

The Light of the world has come, Ceaseless Creator, but we admit we love the shadows all around us. For there, we can boast of our achievements, rather than point to your grace; there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with you, instead of singing your praises; there, we can give into our natural anger, and not be touched by your call to be agents of peace and hope. Forgive us, Eternal Love: lead us from the shadows of sin into the light of your joy; raise us up, as your children, so we may knell in service to others; shower us with the grace, the hope, the peace you have brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Let the community of faith say:

All: God's love endures forever!

Leader: Let those gathered in grace say:

All: God's love endures forever!

Leader: Let those gathered from all parts of the world say:

All: God's love endures forever!

Leader: This is the good news for us:

All: God's love endures forever. Thanks be to God. 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,
now and forever your child I will be.***

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children of all ages

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 34:1-8

New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Gospel Lesson Mark 15:16-24

Sermon

“Sign, Sign Everywhere A Sign ”

Pastor Jan

Hymn “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” #197 (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 give our gifts mindful of the countless blessings that have come our way in the week gone by. In this time of worship, loving God, we have been awakened to the glory of your world through the beauty of music. Our minds have been challenged by the reading of our Scripture lessons and our souls have been touched by the preaching of your word. We have spoken honestly to you in times of prayer. In gratitude for all that has been given to us in our time together, let us respond with generous hearts as we dedicate our offering to you through Christ our Lord. 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 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #193 (NCH)

*Words of Benediction Pastor Jan

*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.