

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care



Gathering around the Word

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!**

***Hymn** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” #221 (RED)

*Call to Worship

Leader: Friends of God, Believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!

All: May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.

Leader: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;

All: We come to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.

Leader: Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world,

All: We come to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Leader: Friends of God, let us worship!

***Affirmation of Faith**

We are the people of God. We are a sign of the New World. We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus. We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God’s love. We believe in Christ. We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life. We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God’s people and invites the world into God’s reign. We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the New World can arrive. We are the people of God. We are the sign of the New World. We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

***Choral Response**

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Covenant-making God, you use every possible means to reach us, breathing your Spirit in us, calling us by name, showing us symbols of your promise, offering us a new way of life. We confess that our hearts are hardened. We choose certainty over faith, anxiety over courage, independence over compassion. We turn our eyes from our neighbors in need, and from stories of despair, and from pleas for peace, and from anything that might bring tears to our eyes, for we prefer our own comfort. We get caught up in our own needs and desires, and forget you have made us to be your people, together. Engrave your words on our hard hearts again, O God. Then break them open for what breaks yours, that your word might sink in and become a part of us, so we might truly live as if you are our God and we are your people. We pray in the name of the One whose love breaks all bounds, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

All: Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed; through Christ, we become new people. Thanks be to God. Amen

***Choral Response** **“Be Now My Vision”** **#451(NCH)vs 1**
*Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart—
You are my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.*

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children
Prayer for Illumination and the Scripture Readings
 Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 31: 31-34
 New Testament Lesson Hebrews 5: 5-10
 Gospel Lesson John 12: 20-33
Sermon “We Wish to See Jesus” James Cope
Hymn **“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”** **#Insert**

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**
As we have been gathered in this place because of the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, so we pray that the gifts we offer in these moments might be used to reach out to those in all corners of the world who need hope, who hunger for food and justice, who yearn for peace, and who long for your graceful presence in their lives. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer *followed by* **The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn** **“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”** **#158 (RED)**
*Benediction
***Closing Response** **“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”** **#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 hear, 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.*