

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

We Welcome you on this Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Pastor James Cope and Pastor Janice 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!

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

All: **We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Leader: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

All: **We wave palm branches in anticipation; we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Leader: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.**

***Opening Hymn**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

#216 (NCH)

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Steadfast Savior: when things go well for us, we can easily sing loud hosannas, but our words turn to anger and bitterness when things don't go our way. We hide behind our palm branches, hoping you will not see the doubts we have about what you call us to do. We eagerly feast on your blessings, but are reluctant to offer even crumbs to those around us. **Forgive us, Approaching God.** Now, more than ever, forgive us. May we be as eager to lay down our fears and doubts, our sins and pride, as we are to lay down our coats for you. May we praise you for your victory over death, as well as for the promise of resurrection to new life, the promise given to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We, too, are a part of the Holy One's plan for restoration. We are called, through Christ Jesus, to strive for restoration, but we are not called to do this work alone.

All: **The One who has made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, will surely equip us for all we are asked to do in Christ's name. God will empower us to attain all the potential God has placed within us. Thanks be to God!**

***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

Special Music

“Here I Am Lord”

Michelle Siegel

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson	Psalm 118:19-29
New Testament Lesson	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel Lesson	Mark 11:1-14

Sermon

“Happy Donkey Sunday”

Pastor Garinger

Hymn “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty” #215 (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 offer nails made out of rejection to others, help us share in their lives. We could wave the hurting and homeless away, help us to welcome them with love and hope. We could keep our gifts stuffed deep in our pockets, help us to give away more than we ever dare. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Special Music “The Holy City” Ron Boyer

The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer

Prayers of the People - The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Words of Benediction** Pastor Garinger

***Hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” #226 (NCH)**

Note: After the final hymn we will be leaving the sanctuary in silence as we begin our journey into Holy Week.

*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.*