

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

We Welcome You on this Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 2024 - 9:30 AM

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



Gathering around the Word

Ringling 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** **“Ask Me What Great Thing I Know”** **#49 (NCH)**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: This is the day God has promised: the day of the new covenant.

All: We are here, because our hearts are filled with love for our God.

Leader: No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.

All: Our hearts are open so God’s Word can shape us.

Leader: We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers.

All: Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God’s people.

***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

O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own. In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, come to us and make us whole. Write grace upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write mercy on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write hospitality upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us.

(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 Psalm 19

New Testament Lesson 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Gospel Lesson John 13: 1-17

Sermon

“True Greatness”

James Cope

Hymn

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

#433 (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**

As you write upon our hearts, soften them with your compassion. As you soften them, open us to the needs of those close to us, as well as those in every corner of your world. As you open us to the hurts and heartaches of your children, give us the grace to be as generous with our gifts as you are in blessing us. Take these gifts and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with all of your people. 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**

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

#543 (NCH)

***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 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.*