



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Third Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word - April 14, 2024

9:30 AM

James Cope, Pastor

Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care

The Gathering

Ringing of the Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

*Call to Worship

Leader: Like the disciples who met the risen Christ,

All: we come hoping for unexpected appearances of God's love.

Leader: We come with our questions and doubts, and listen for Christ to appear in our midst saying:

All: "Peace be with you."

Leader: "Touch me and see who I am," says Jesus: We look around at the lives of our neighbors and guests, and seek the power of the risen Christ at work there, offering grace, offering hope, offering courage, offering transformation.

All: We are witnesses to the tangible love of Jesus! Come, let us worship!

*Hymn

"Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

#Insert

*Affirmation of Faith

We know that God is in the world—was and is and will be. God made it all, and continues to renew and remake and resurrect.

We know God best in the life of Jesus, who was and is our maker of hope, the one who saves.

We know the power and energy of God in the Holy Spirit.

We are filled with God's joy and pledged to discipleship and love.

We trust in God. We celebrate God. We work together for justice and peace through God.

We choose the ways of Christ. We are never alone.

Thanks be to God!

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

O Present God, our lives are filled with distractions big and small. We confess that like the disciples we are easily scared by the unknown. We are overcome with worry about illness, unemployment, our children, and the world as a whole. In our most vulnerable moments, we demand that you answer us when we call to you. But often, we do not listen for you or seek your unexpected, grace-filled presence in our trouble. Forgive us for our demands. Be gracious to us and hear the longing found within our prayers.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

ALL: Remind us that your light shines in all moments of life. Give us eyes to see the light of your face shining on us, O God. Let us feel the gladness you have placed in each of our hearts – more plentiful than grain and wine – and let us live out of that glad confidence. In our waking and in our slumber, give us peace.

Leader: Easter people whose light is found in Jesus our risen Christ, may the light of God's face shine upon you in all that you say, do, think, feel, and love. You have the light of God within you this day and always!

***Choral Response "From All that Dwell below the Skies" #27 (NCH)
Verse one**

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination and the Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 4

New Testament Lesson Acts 3: 12-19

Gospel Lesson Luke 24 36-48

Sermon

"I Can See Myself in You"

James Cope

Hymn

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

#251 (NCH)

