



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word - April 28, 2024

9:30 AM

James Cope, Pastor

Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care

The Gathering

Ringling of the 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: God is the Gardener, and God is planting something new:

All: In this time of worship, may we grow in Christ.

Leader: God is pruning us back so we may bear fruit;

All: In this time of worship, may we repent, and know God's forgiveness.

Leader: God is nurturing us with water and Spirit, that we may blossom;

All: In this time of worship, may we praise our Creator and Sustainer!

Leader: Come, let us join together in worship;

All: Let us praise God, who is growing something new in us.

*Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43 (NCH)

*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

God of Compassion: called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; called to be your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.

Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God's love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

All: Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*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 22 25-31

New Testament Lesson 1 John 4: 7-21

Gospel Lesson John 15: 1-8

Sermon

"To Love, to Be Loved"

James Cope

Hymn

"O How I Love Jesus"

#52 (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**

From you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response **The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)** **#769 (NCH)**
 “Hear Our Prayer”
 Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
 Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn** **“Love Lifted Me”** **#Insert**
***Benediction**
***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.*