



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word – May 12, 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

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: Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs.

All: With joyful hearts, O God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ through whom we have received the gift of eternal life.

Leader: With the promise that we will live forever in your love and gracious care,

All: we face the future unafraid.

Leader: Life has taken on new meaning for us, gracious God,

All: and we would share our joy by witnessing to your love.

***Hymn** “Rejoice, You Pure in Heart” #55 (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

Protector of us all, so many of us come this morning with the weight of the world on our shoulders. We are burdened with our own problems and with the problems of the world that we just can’t solve. Anxiety and pain separate us from one another and from you.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Remind us that your prayer for us is to become one—to share each other’s hopes and burdens, to create a world where resources are shared so that all have enough for full human life. Transform our separate lives into one life shared in you; take away the armor that shields us from the pain of others and fill us with joy that radiates from the core of our being. In the joyful spirit of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Be joyful this day because you are not the burdens you carry! Instead you are the beautiful image God created and is creating you to be!

All: And God is creating a Beloved Community in our midst! Thanks be to God!

***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 1

New Testament Lesson 1 John 5: 9-13

*Gospel Lesson John 17: 6-19

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “Pockets of Happiness” James Cope

Hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” #4 (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**

Like the trees planted by streams, God provides us with the opportunities to share the fruits of our labor with each other. So to you, O Fruitful God, we pray that these gifts nourish your beloved children with wisdom, compassion, and creativity so that you Beloved Community is deepened and recognized: eternal life made manifest in the here and now. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Choral Response **“Hear Our Prayer”** **#769 (NCH)**

**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** **“Since Jesus Came into My Heart”** **#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.*