

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

We Welcome you on this Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024 - 9:30 AM

Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor in Care Jan 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: Today we celebrate Ascension Day when we rejoice in Christ’s return to God.

All: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

Leader: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

All: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God’s love to us.

Leader: Let’s get to work!

All: Let’s make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise! Amen.

***Opening Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” #304 (NCH)**

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Our Prayer of Confession

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have failed to do this. We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. We look for the quick and easy answers. Forgive us for the smallness of our faith. You, who raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. You have done this and yet, we remain static in our response to you. Clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Forgiveness and love have been poured out upon us, to offer hope to everyone.

All: We are called and blessed to be messengers of God’s good news to all people. Amen.

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

The Gift of the Word

A Time with the Children of all ages

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson	Psalm 47
New Testament Lesson	Acts 1:1-11
Gospel Lesson	Luke 24:44-53

Sermon

“I’ve Got This! I Think.”

Hymn

“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!” #257 (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**
O God, our hearts sing with thanksgiving for the many gifts and graces you bring to our lives. We give you thanks for your steadfast love and faithful Spirit. Receive our offering and the gift of our whole selves, that we might give as we have received and love as we have been loved. Amen

The Ministry of Remembrance and Prayer

Prayers of the People - 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** **“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”** **#303 (NCH)**

***Words of Benediction** **Pastor Jan**

***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.*