



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

“Blessed by God’s grace and gathered in Christ’s love, we come together for worship on
this Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost.”

October 25, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Rev. James Cope, Senior Pastor and Janice Garinger, Pastor

The Gathering

Ringling of the Church Tower Bell/**Our Life Together**

Prelude “Stand Up for Jesus” L. S. Clark

The Solemn Declaration

Choral Introit “How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place” **Sing Two Times**
How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, our God!
How lovely is your dwelling place, is your dwelling place, O God!

***Call to Worship**

Leader: From generation to generation, the praises of God have been sung.
People: The story of God’s faithfulness continues in us.
Leader: The heavens declare God’s glory, and all creation speaks of God’s goodness.
People: We join the song of all who have worshiped before us.
Leader: Let the familiar words become fresh upon on lips, and let our praise rise with joy.
People: Great is the Lord, and worthy of our praise!
Leader: Come, let us worship God!
People: With joyful voices and grateful hearts, we give God the glory!

***Opening Hymn**

“To God Be the Glory”

#Insert

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

God of truth, we confess that we do not always live by the things we claim to believe. We can be stubborn when we need to be humble, impatient when we need to be thoughtful, and quick to defend ourselves when we need to admit we are wrong. We sometimes settle for what is comfortable rather than doing what is right. Forgive us, God, and keep shaping us into people whose lives reflect the faith we profess. Give us courage to face our shortcomings honestly and the wisdom to make a different choice. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news of the Gospel is this: God’s mercy is greater than our failures, and God’s love is not withdrawn when we fall short.

People: In Jesus Christ, forgiveness is offered freely, and grace is ours to receive.

Leader: We are not defined by our worst decisions or confined by our past.

People: Thanks be to God! In Christ, we are forgiven and free to live a new way. Amen.

***Choral Response**

“Gloria Patri”

#759 (TNCH)

Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end.
A-men. A-men.

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God who created this beautiful world and calls it good, a God whose love has carried generations before us and will carry generations yet to come. We believe in Jesus, who showed us what God’s love looks like in a human life, who welcomed the forgotten, stood alongside the hurting, and offered hope where others saw none. We believe that the story of Jesus did not end at the cross, that resurrection is real, and that even in the hardest of times, God’s love has the final word. We believe the Holy Spirit is at work among us, often in ways we cannot see or fully understand, giving us courage, stirring our hearts, and reminding us that we are never beyond the reach of God’s grace. This is the faith we share, the hope we proclaim, and the love in which we seek to live. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Gift of the Word

A Story for All Ages

Choral Preparation

“O Word of God”
Verse 1

#199 (RED)

The Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Gospel Lesson Matthew 22: 34-46

Leader: This is the inspired word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn	“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”	#272 (RED)
Sermon	“Tu me manques”	James Cope

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (debts and debtors)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory “Here Abide” A. Edward Kroeger

*Offertory Response #17 (TNCH)
From north to south, from east to west, from ocean depth to mountain crest, we sing praises, alleluia! From in to out, from up to down, Let all Creation’s praise resound: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication
Faithful God, you have entrusted us with gifts of many kinds: resources to share, abilities to use, time to offer, and opportunities to serve. As we present these offerings, we give thanks for the privilege of taking part in your work. Bless the gifts and guide those who will use them. May they strengthen the ministry of this church, support those in need, and help bring your goodness into the world. Receive our giving as an expression of our gratitude and our trust in you. Through Jesus Chrst, we pray. Amen.

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

*Hymn	“Dwell in Me”	#464 (RED)
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*Words of Benediction

* Closing Response	“Lift High the Cross-v.1”	#198 (TNCH)
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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 “Postlude in E Flat” May F. Lawrence

*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.