

SUNDAY SERVICE FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

PRELUDE “To God All Praise and Glory” -arr. R. Wilson

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE – 20th Anniversary Remembrance of 9/11 Moment of Silence

• CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)

One: The covenant promises of God are true and steadfast.

All: We rejoice in them, and our hope is set upon them.

One: But the living out of that covenant cannot be fulfilled within these, or any, walls.

**All: Let us renew our commitment to the Covenant here,
and then go out bearing the Light of God.**

• OPENING HYMN “Part of the Family” -James K. Manley, 1984 (*See insert*)

• GATHERING PRAYER (*In unison*)

Holy God of faithful promise, our hearts are set on the foundation revealed through Moses at Sinai: you are our God and we will be your people. It is the most wondrous of paths as well as the most challenging. Gather us in and help us rejoice in knowing that our distance from one another and from this sacred assembly has not, and cannot, distance us from your loving heart. Receive the renewing of our covenant vows today and remind us of your enduring Presence with us. All this we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

GREETING TIME (*Remaining in our pews, let us turn toward our neighbors in silence, offering a sign of God’s covenantal love.*)

MUSICAL RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

SCRIPTURE

First Reading: **Joshua 24:14-18** (*page 216*)

Second Reading: **Matthew 22:34-40** (*page 25*)

A WORD For All Ages - *We are a Covenant and Covenanting People*

LITANY PRAYER FOR COVENANT RENEWAL (*SEE BELOW*)

MUSICAL REFLECTION “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” -arr. C. Berry

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (*In unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever. Amen.

• CLOSING HYMN #683 "O for a World"

• COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Lift High the Cross" -arr. P. Manz

Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve

Our time of worship concludes at the end of the Postlude. If you would like to remain in the sanctuary to listen to this music written and played to glorify God, please do so quietly.

Otherwise, you may join others in the narthex for refreshments and fellowship.

Joshua 24:14-18 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Matthew 22:34-40 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Litany Prayer for Covenant Renewal

Holy God, throughout history you have called us to enter into covenant with you and with your people. Today, we celebrate and renew our call and commitment to be the church of Jesus Christ. Even in this difficult time when we are scattered more than gathered, even as the rampant disease of COVID swirls around us, even in divisive political discourse, even with the turbulence of climate disasters, even in the midst of human suffering near and far, and especially in this interim time of ministry seeking to discern what it means to be church now and, in the future, we continue to claim ourselves to be the Body of Christ!

We acknowledge the many gifts you have given us and the varied ways in which we are called to use them to witness and engage in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Hear us as we ask for your gracious blessings.

For the sight, sounds and witness of babies, children, teens and adults who give us hope and challenge us to be faithful disciples.... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those you entrust to be parents, guardians, and grandparents, not only to their own children, but to all in this church family... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those who have been called to serve as teachers, storytellers, youth leaders, mentors, study group and retreat facilitators - giving of their time and talents to share the lessons of faith... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those who serve diligently on boards, committees, and teams and those who plan events to uphold and to advance the ministries of this congregation... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those who prepare and lead worship reminding us of who we are, to whom we belong and to engage us in your Word for our lives... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those who proclaim your word, praise your name, and inspire us with their gifts of music... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those stewards who give their support to the ministries and missions of the church through their generosity of money, time, and talents... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For the young and the elders who by their questions and wisdom, both challenge us to change and remind us to honor our heritage... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For those who are unable to be present with us due to illness, struggle, work, distance, or travel... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For all here who work to be faithful in their daily living and promote your way of peace, justice and righteousness in the workplace, home, recreation, neighborhoods, community, country and the world... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

For all those who seek to follow your way and Word, engaging in the varied ministries and mission of Emanuel United Church of Christ and in the larger church and especially for those who serve as leaders in this interim time... *We ask your blessing, O God.*

Grant us your powerful presence in all the work you have given us to do. May we be joy-filled to serve you. May all our words and deeds be to your praise and blessing of your holy name. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.



SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS NEXT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH!

Families, next Sunday, we will begin Sunday School. We are meeting outside (weather permitting) and working on our Sunday School Covenant as well as making a special take home craft. All teachers are committed to masking at this time to keep your children safe. If it is raining, we will meet downstairs in Kurth Hall and follow proper social distancing guidelines. Hope you will join us!

USHERS NEEDED

Emanuel is looking for ushers! If you are interested in helping out with this important job, please contact the church office or Eileen Kvalheim.



A person is placed on the list by calling the church office or filling out a prayer card. Please ask permission to include their names on the list. Names will be listed for 3 weeks.

John Zimmerman – Continued prayers for John who is dealing with health concerns.

Kevin – Please keep Kevin, Kim Klotzbach's brother, in your prayers. Kevin who recently had triple bypass surgery and is in recovery.

Sandy Nelson – Prayers of comfort for Sandy who lost her husband, Gerald, on August 26th.