



**Immanuel United Church of Christ
Ferguson, Missouri
February 5, 2023**

Order of Worship

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 a.m.**

All hymns are from the Chalice Hymnal
* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***RINGING OF THE BELL and CHIMES**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Teddy Branom

Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's presence!

Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's protection!
Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.
Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's power!

***HYMN**

"Gather Us In"

#284

***INVOCATION**

Sovereign God, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions. Let our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you. May seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Let it be so. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

***Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

READING OF PSALM 112:1-10

¹ Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation for the upright will be blessed. ³ Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. ⁴ They rise in darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. ⁶ For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. ⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. ⁸ Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. ¹⁰ The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

READING OF MARK 6:45-51

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an

adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ⁵¹ Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astonished.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lord, Speak to Me"
Choral Ensemble

arr. Jones

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention—resisting cultural norms and societal pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power. Sometimes, we add complexity in order to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful. Yet, your way is simple. Soften our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God, who is faithful, can redeem our detours and misdirection's on the journey for our good and the good of others. God's invitation to covenantal life has no expiration date, and the Holy One receives us with joy and grace when we take even a step toward the kingdom.

HYMN

"Wade in the Water"

#371

SERMON

"To Fear or Not To Fear"

Pastor Deon A.
McKenzie

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together" #425
(Vs.1,2)

SACRAMENTS OF HOLY COMMUNION

(We invite all who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior to partake of the Holy Communion. For those who prefer, grape juice is in the center ring of each tray. Gluten free wafers are individually wrapped.)

Pastor: Jesus said, I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger: you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gifts of life itself. We thank you for making us in your image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "*This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*" In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "*This cup is the new Covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*" By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

BLESSING OF ELEMENTS

Pastor: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

People: Amen, Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for another, and let us

show forth your praise in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

The generous life imagines the possibilities of the kingdom of God realized through the sharing of our gifts. Generosity glorifies God and connects us as neighbors. When we give of our time, talent, and treasure, we declare our trust in the abundance of God's continuing creative acts and participate in the realization of the kingdom on earth.

***DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen

***HYMN**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#86

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ROSE BUD ON ALTAR – celebrating the birth of Olivia May LaFaver – daughter of Derek & Erin (Schuster) LaFaver, granddaughter of Marty & Joanne Schuster, great granddaughter of Sue Schuster.
- COFFEE & DONUTS will be served 9:00-9:30 a.m. and immediately after worship from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- YOUTH ACTIVITY – Today, during worship, Reception Room. Youth are making Valentine's Day cards for our homebound members. All are invited to sign the cards after worship.
- ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION – Today, after worship, Reception Room
- HANDBELL REHEARSAL – Today, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

- BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING – Tuesday, Feb 7, 7:00pm, Library
- CHRISTIANS IN ACTION (CIA) MEETING – Tuesday, Feb 7, 7:00pm, Room 204
- QUILTING – Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.
- PRAYER AND SHARE – Wednesday, Feb 8, 10:00am, Library
- HANDBELL REHEARSAL – Wednesday, Feb 8, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
- ATTENDANCE – Please sign and note your attendance in the black folder located in each pew, towards the center aisle.
- ASH WEDNESDAY – Wednesday, Feb 22, services at 1:30pm and 7:00pm; dinner at 6:00pm