

Emanuel United Church of Christ



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

Pastor Joshua W. Rau

A warm welcome to all today!

May this time of worship strengthen your faith and desire to serve the Creator who loves us with everlasting love in Christ Jesus.

Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their bulletins, and sing & speak loudly! We value the noise made by our children! We have a nursery available in our education building with a video feed of our service.

Visitors, we are glad you are here! Please sign our Guest Register and feel free to fill out a “welcome slip” in the pews.

Please come again!!

† **SERVING IN WORSHIP** †

Organist: *Christy Shinn*

Choir Director: *Kelly Cranford*

Reader: *Barb Chaney*



Greeting You Today

*Steph Doggett
Alyssa Rau*



Given By:

*Hoffmeister Family
in memory of Betty Hoffmeister*

Last Week's Numbers	
Attendance-61	Offering-\$1487

We Keep in Prayer

Please keep in your prayers those who are in need of healing and our shut-ins and home-bound members. May God's grace surround them with comfort and care.

Mary Lou Abernathy, Pat Abernathy, LaDonia Beggs, June Borgfield, Larry Brockmire, Jeffrey Kies, Alice Koepfel, Robert Loos, Junior Peetz, Marvin Peetz, Helen Poston, Alice Quigley, Cindy Smith

Pastor: *Celt* 715-294-0157 ~ **Email:** pastorjoshuarau@gmail.com

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Website: www.euccjackson.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/euccjackson ~ **Instagram:** @euccjackson

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

***Indicates congregation please stand if able**
Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***TRINITY CHIMES** *(at the sound of the chimes, please stand)*

***INTROIT** *“Children Awaken”*

Children awaken, God’s lovely people,
No pew is taken, all welcome here!
More than a steeple reaching to heaven
We are a haven, each person dear.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ calls us from death into life.
We come trusting in God’s promise of resurrection.
Hope rises even in the midst of sorrow.
We place our hope in the living Christ.
God’s love speaks life into every grave.
Breathe new life into us, O God.

***GATHERING HYMN** *“To God Be the Glory”*

words on next page

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of life, you weep with those who mourn and call forth new life from places of despair. Strengthen our faith when hope feels fragile. Loose what binds us, and raise us to walk in the freedom of your grace; through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.

To God Be The Glory

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]

3 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

***TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, the journey of Lent calls us to walk honestly with God, to face our fears, our failures, our temptations, and our wounded places. God does not meet us with condemnation, but with mercy, healing, and grace. Trusting in the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking forgiveness and new life as we confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Gracious God, we confess that we do not always live as your faithful people. We turn away when the path is difficult. We listen to voices that distract us from your truth. We cling to fears instead of trusting your promises. We fail to love our neighbors as ourselves and to love you with our whole hearts. Forgive us, O God. Create in us clean hearts. Renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alysha Petry

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *"Make My Life a Song"*

words on page 11

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. ³ And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know."

⁴ Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." ' "

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' " ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴ I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.’

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹ Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” ⁴ When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. ⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹ These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” ¹² Then His dis-

ciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." ¹³ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹ And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. ²⁰ Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." ²⁹ As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." ³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ³⁴ And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷ And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come

forth!”⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “*Unbound for Life*”

***SERMON HYMN** “*I Come to the Garden Alone*”

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DEDICATION OF WORSHIP ELEMENTS

information on p. 12

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THANKSGIVING

God’s gifts move us to respond with grateful words and actions.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***SENDING HYMN** “*Trust and Obey*”

words on next page

***BLESSING**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION** “*As We Go*”

As we go may Your Spirit go before us
As we go may we follow where You lead
May we live what we have learned
Share the message we have heard
And be a light unto the world as we go

***POSTLUDE**

Trust and Obey

1 When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2 Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

3 But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

4 Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

Choir Anthem— “Make My Life a Song”

“Make My Life a Song” is a heartfelt prayer asking God to shape every thought, word, and action into a song of praise. With uplifting melodies and expressive harmonies, the anthem invites believers to live faithfully and reflect Christ’s love in all they do.

You sang to me when first I breathed the holy breath of life; You sing to me as faith took hold and grew within my soul; You sing to me at ev’ry turn and in each new beginning; I hear Your voice in the stillness of my heart. Make my life a song, Creator of the spheres. Make my life a song, O Lord of joy and tears. A song of praise, a hymn of faith, an anthem of Your love; Make my life a song.

I give to You my hopes and dreams, the ventures of my life; I give to You the service that I offer in Your Name; I live for You my future to unfold as You will choose; I pray that I may walk beside You all my days. Make my life a song, Creator of the spheres; Make my life a song, O Lord of joy and tears. A song of praise, a hymn of faith, an anthem of Your love. Make my life, Make my life, make my life a song.

Camp Sunday—March 22

Thank you to Alysha Petry, Camp MoVal’s Hospitality Team Lead, for presenting information about the Camp Ministries of the Missouri Mid-South Conference.



Save the dates for the following camps and retreats:

MMS-UCC Conference Women’s Retreat	May 1-3
High School Camp (completed 8th-12th grade)	June 21-26
Family Camp (All Ages)	June 28-July 2
All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9)	July 5-10
All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9)	July 12-17
Adventures in Community (ages 18+)	July 19-23

In Loving Memory of Betty Hoffmeister

Today we give thanks for several visible reminders of God's presence in our worship life as a congregation. First, we are dedicating new oil candles and worship banners to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Hoffmeister. These gifts will enhance our worship each week and stand as a lasting reminder of Betty's faith and witness among us.

We are also moving our main altar candles and the Paschal candle into the chapel, where they will be used regularly in our chapel services. There they will continue to serve for the proclamation of God's Word, the offering of prayer, and the ongoing celebration of the risen Christ in the life of our church.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Donations are still being accepted for One Great Hour of Sharing through the month of March.

Special offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Please make checks payable to EUCC and write OGHS in the memo line. Please write your name in the space provided on the envelope so that your donation can be recorded in your giving statement.



*Mid-Week
Lent
Worship*

Journey of Stones
February 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Meal at 5:45pm
Worship at 6:30 pm

Emanuel
UCC
114 N. AVENUE
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201
Pastor: W. Ryan Patten
WWW.ECCLESIA.ORG

March 25 Lenten Meal:

Entrée will be Baked Potato Bar—sponsored by Church Council

Holy Week

JOIN US FOR
PALM SUNDAY

Start Holy Week With Us
March 29, 2026 | 10:10



Emanuel
UCC
214 E ADAMS ST.
JACKSON, MO 65715
573-243-3333
Joshua W. Riser, Pastor
WWW.EUCCLJACKSON.ORG

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

**April 2, 2026
7:00 pm**



Emanuel
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214 E ADAMS ST.
JACKSON, MO 65715
573-243-3333
Joshua W. Riser, Pastor
WWW.EUCCLJACKSON.ORG

Good FRIDAY

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**April 3, 2026 ~ NOON
in the Chapel**



Emanuel
UCC
214 E ADAMS ST.
JACKSON, MO 65715
573-243-3333
Joshua W. Riser, Pastor

Easter at Emanuel
April 5, 2026

Easter SONrise Worship - 6:30 am
In the Courtyard

Easter Celebration Worship - 10:10 am
In the Sanctuary



Emanuel
UCC
214 E ADAMS ST.
JACKSON, MO 65715
573-243-3333
Joshua W. Riser, Pastor



YOU'RE INVITED

EASTER BRUNCH

SATURDAY—APRIL 4—10 AM
304 E Adams St, Jackson, MO

EGG HUNT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING! BRING YOUR BASKET AND JOIN US FOR EGGS, TREATS & FUN!





YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Spaghetti Supper

APRIL 17, 2026 5 - 7 PM

\$12.00 Online tickets available via Venmo or pay at the door.



Emanuel
UCC
354 E ADAMS ST
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Joshua W. Rain, Pastor
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venmo

Tickets will be available to purchase after worship starting March 29th.

THIS WEEK

Today

Camp Sunday

CBE Meeting after worship

Wed., March 25

Meditations from Emanuel on Facebook and YouTube

5:45 pm-Mid-Week Lent Meal

6:30 pm-Mid-Week Lent Service

Sat., March 28

5:30 pm-Ignite Worship

Sun., March 29

9:00 am-Faith and Fellowship

10:10 am-Traditional Worship

Palm Sunday

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to YouTube and Facebook. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

Music and other worship elements used with permission:

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Ways to Give