



IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
110 Boone Street – Bromley, Kentucky 41016

Rev. Kay Young, Pastor

Connect • Grow • Serve

Order of Worship & Liturgy
Sunday – January 2, 2022 – 10:45 AM

PRELUDE: *“Dear Prudence”* (Michael Sullivan, Guitarist)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES (Jenny Reinhart & Debbie Vater)

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER (Pastor Kay)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Laura Reis)

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (Laura leads congregation)

Leader: We have waited for one who would share God's spirit –

People: ***We waited for one who would judge the fearful with righteousness and the poor with justice; who would show compassion to the weak and mercy to the condemned.***

Leader: Who would break down the walls dividing the peoples that all on earth might follow a star. For so long have we seen the visions; for so long have the dreams been dreamed.

People: ***Here is the One for whom we have waited! Let us open our treasures and offer our gifts: our hearts, our souls and our minds! Thank You, Lord God! Amen.***

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

*** HYMN:** *“Go Tell it on The Mountain”* (video with lyrics) (Laura introduces hymn)

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Laura leads congregation)

*God of All Beginnings, we confess our own despair and distrust. Our expectations have been tempered, our hopes subdued. We are afraid of being let down again by the world. Remind us that our hope is not in the things of this world and not in our leaders or our systems – but our hope is in You, Creator of heaven and earth. Shape our hearts to love more deeply. Open our minds to accept what we cannot change and to transform our own lives to Your ways. Mold our lives to live as You lived, in compassion and loving-kindness, in gratitude and peace. Lift up our hearts, so we may enter this New Year with Your living hope. In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May you enter the New Year with the expectation that the world will change. Goodness, love and mercy will always prevail. Trust these words in your heart, trust the promises of God, and know that you are forgiven, loved and restored. **Amen.**

*** ACT OF PRAISE:** *“Gloria Patri”* (video with lyrics)

PRAYER CONCERNS (brief Prayer List updates)

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*** RESPONSE TO PRAYER: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" (video with lyrics)**

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION & READINGS

(Laura)

Introduction to Scriptures: The book of **Sirach** is rarely used in worship, possibly because no Hebrew version was found until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947. The reading in Sirach 24: 1-12, is now recommended for the second Sunday after Christmas Day and a second Sunday after Christmas rarely occurs. Sirach was included by later scholars who found the book to be, not only credible, but possibly eliminated earlier because of disagreement when the Bible was first put together. The reading today is important in that it reveals the high interest in wisdom to be found throughout Sirach and is in company with New Testament writings about Jesus' wisdom during his time on earth. The book of **Ephesians** may have been written as a general letter to many churches. The churches are told to "no longer live as the Gentiles live"; that they are no longer "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the "promise" of God, but are all family if they believe in Jesus as God's Son.

Sirach 24: 1-12 (NRSV)

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.'" Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

Ephesians 1: 3-14 (NRSV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

May God bless the reading, hearing and understanding of these – His holy words. **Amen!**

SERMON: "Wisdom: Finding The Sacred Call If You Need to Do So"

(Pastor Kay)

* **HYMN: “Peace Like A River”** (video with lyrics)

(Laura introduces hymn)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- *Invitation to the Table*
- *Consecration of the Bread and the Cup*

THE APOSTLES CREED

(Laura leads Congregation)

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate: was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. **Amen.***

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

(Laura)

God’s wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down. God calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God’s future leads us to great generosity and joy. Let us now gather our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Music: “Oh, Child”

(Michael Sullivan, Guitarist)

* **Doxology** (video with lyrics)

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

(Laura leads Congregation)

*Most wise and wondrous God, please accept these gifts. Turn them into your vision of people supported and sustained by our ministries. In this New Year, may we continue to bless others in ways that will bring them to you through our living example. **Amen.***

* **HYMN: “All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name”** (video with lyrics)

(Laura introduces hymn)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “I Am Light”

(Michael Sullivan, Guitarist)