



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

Rev. Kay Young, Pastor

*Connect • Grow • Serve*

---

**Order of Worship & Liturgy**  
**Sunday – January 9, 2022 – 10:45 AM**

---

**PRELUDE:** *“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”* by Prichard; arranged by Rouse (Russell Winters)

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES** (Shirley Pierce & Ann Duncan)

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER** (Pastor Kay)

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Bob Elliott)

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP** (Bob leads congregation)

Leader: All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God. New hope has arisen for each of us.

**People:** *We are forgiven and blessed. God’s love permeates even the deepest darkness and we are entrusted to God’s service.*

Leader: The light of God shines on us with hope and we are marked as disciples.

**People:** *Come, Spirit of God, rest upon us. Enable us to be Your people of hope and peace. Amen.*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

**\* HYMN:** *“Come Christians, Join to Sing”* (No. 225) (Bob introduces hymn)

*Come, Christians, join to sing  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice.  
Alleluia! Amen!*

*Come, lift your hearts on high,  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend;  
To us He’ll condescend;  
His love shall never end.  
Alleluia! Amen!*

*Praise yet our Christ again,  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore,  
His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore,  
"Alleluia! Amen!"*

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(Bob leads congregation)*

*God of light and love, shine the brightness of your presence upon the darkness and fear in our lives. Let your light so shine in us that our fears are overcome and forgiven. May the brightness of your light shine out from us to all those who are yearning for love and forgiveness so that your grace may fill this weary world. **Amen.***

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*(Pastor Kay)*

*People of God, you are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. God gives us all we need. Shine with God's grace! **Amen.***

**\* ACT OF PRAISE: "Gloria Patri" No. 812**

*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!*

**PRAYER CONCERNS** *(brief Prayer List updates)*

*(Pastor Kay)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Pastor Kay)*

**\* RESPONSE TO PRAYER: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"**

*Hear our prayer, O Lord  
Hear our prayer, O Lord  
Incline Thine ear to us and grant us Thy peace*

**SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION & READINGS**

*(Bob)*

*Introduction to Scriptures: In **Isaiah** today, we are alerted to the moment of the important truth of the Christ coming to earth and a brilliant hint of its significance to us all. We are given permission to reinterpret our past and rethink our way forward in light of the prophecy. Isaiah brings hope to the entire world which needs the light of truth to shine in its darkness.*

*The important truth of the birth of Jesus becomes clear as we read of the visitation of the wise men who are from other parts of the world in **Matthew**. Matthew makes it clear that spiritual seekers were already prevalent among people on earth with the journey of the strangers to the stable. The fact that they are not Jews, but are wise men seeking the possibility of finding God on earth, is made clear later when the Magi are described as people who are obviously not of the Jewish faith. This foretells the sharing of the gospel of Christ with the Gentiles, that the Son of God considers the entire human world to be the children of God.*

*Isaiah 60: 1-6 (NRSV) (Page 602 in the Pew Bible)*

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift*

up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV) (Page 783 in the Pew Bible)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

SERMON: "Walking in the Light"

(Pastor Kay)

\* HYMN: "We Three Kings" (No. 288, verses 1, 2, special & 5)

(Bob introduces hymn)

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain;  
Gold I bring to crown Him again.  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Let all rejoice and unite.  
Christ the King draws us to the light.  
In a time filled with uncertainty,  
Let us our fears rewrite.  
O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now, behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Sounds through the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

## **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

### **Invitation to Offering**

*(Bob)*

We have seen the light of the world. We have been called to follow the star of promise. Like the Magi, let us bring our gifts to honor the babe of Bethlehem and bring the light to all the dark places in our community and our world. Let us now gather our tithes and offerings.

**Offertory Music:** **“We Three Kings”** by Hopkins; arranged by Larson

*(Russell Winters)*

### **\* Doxology (No. 815)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, with love, all heavens above.  
Praise God, who brings all life and love. **Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

*(Bob leads congregation)*

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain and loneliness. Accept these gifts and our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. **Amen.**

### **\* HYMN: “Go Tell It on The Mountain” (No. 258)**

*(Bob introduces hymn)*

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold! Throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

*The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

*Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And brought us God's salvation  
That bless'ed Christmas morn.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!*

**BENEDICTION**

*(Pastor Kay)*

**POSTLUDE: "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit"** *African American Spiritual; arranged by Carter (Russell Winters)*