



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

Rev. Kay Young, Pastor

Connect • Grow • Serve

Order of Worship & Liturgy
Sunday – August 28, 2022 – 10:45 AM

PRELUDE: “I Can Only Imagine”

(Performed by Lauren Arnold)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

(Jenny Reinhart & Bob Elliott)

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

(Pastor Kay)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Bill Doyle)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

(Bill leads congregation)

Leader: Jesus said, “Love one another, even as I have loved you.” When we are left to our own devices, we become like weak and cracked vessels, unable to sustain love, mercy, and justice.

People: But when we come to God, seeking God’s healing love, we are given the strength and courage to serve others.

Leader: Let the love which God has lavished upon us be poured out to those in need.

People: Help us, O Lord, to witness to you by the ways in which we care for others. As we worship this morning, heal our hearts and spirits and prepare us for service. Amen

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

* HYMN: “Dear Lord & Father of Mankind” (No. 639)

(Introduced and led by Lauren)

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!*

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(Bill leads congregation)

*We confess, O Lord, that we love attention. We are pleased when people single us out for something good that we have done, for some outstanding act or trait of kindness that we exhibit. We revel in the light; but the seductive light too often captures us and we seek its brightness and glory and turn our backs on others in need. We have been given many gifts, but have failed to use them to help others and to serve you. Forgive us our vanity and greed. Heal our wounded and aching souls. Place us again on the pathway of peace and hope that is your way to true life. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Pastor Kay)

*You have lifted us and dusted us off, O Lord. You have claimed us as your own. Let us celebrate your love for us in lives of service to others; for you are with us always. **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 update)*

(Pastor Kay)

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Pastor Kay)

*** RESPONSE TO PRAYER: “Our Prayer”**

(Introduced and led by Lauren)

*Father, hear us as we pray; Guard and keep us day by day;
Help us feel Thy loving care, every day and everywhere.
Help us to be good and true, Jesus’ work on earth to do;
All we have with others share, every day and everywhere. **Amen!***

JINGLE OFFERING FOR THE IUCC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION & READINGS

(Bill)

*Introduction to Scriptures: **Jeremiah** is speaking the heart of the matter of the covenant with Israel. Speaking for the Lord, Jeremiah indicts and judges Israel for breaking the covenant made during the wonders of exodus deliverance and protection through the perils of the wilderness. God brought them into the land and gave them the plenty they now enjoy. **Hebrews** 13 speaks to mutual love between believers for believers. Such love entails willing the good of others in the group and involves doing as much as feeling. In **Luke** 14, the nature of the instruction that Jesus gives is reminiscent of the Hebrew wisdom tradition. It gives guidance to those who share a table, discouraging the presumption of privilege and encouraging a humbler attitude.*

Jeremiah 2: 4-13 (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: “What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord who brought us up from

the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’ And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Ba'al and went after things that do not profit.

“Therefore I still contend with you, says the Lord, and with your children’s children I will contend. For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (NRSV)

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never fail you nor forsake you.” Hence we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Luke 14:1, 7-14 (NRSV)

One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, “When you are invited by anyone to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

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

SERMON: “Hospitality and Humility: Essentials of Good Discipleship” (Rev. Diane B. Vego)

*** HYMN: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”**

(Introduced and led by Lauren)

*How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom*

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

(Bill)

*We are invited to offer our resources, our time, our abilities, our compassion, on days when our lives are full and days when our lives feel empty. We are invited to offer what we have and accept what we need. **Let us now gather our tithes and offerings.***

Offertory Music: “Dancing on the Waves”

(Performed by Lauren)

*** 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)

(Bill leads congregation)

*God, we bring these gifts, our response to your invitation. In this giving, we find ourselves not lessened, but newly joyful, truly honored, and deeply fed by your blessing. **Amen.***

*** HYMN: “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” (No.97)**

(Introduced and led by Lauren)

*Sing praise to God who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul He fills,*

*And every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away,
But, thro' all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay,
Our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!*

*Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart!
Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!*

*Let all who name Christ's holy name
Give God all praise and glory;
Let all who own His pow'r proclaim
Aloud the wondrous story!
Cast every idol from its throne,
For Christ is Lord and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory!*

BENEDICTION

(Pastor Kay)

SONG OF GOING OUT: "Edelweiss Tune"

(Introduced and led by Lauren)

*May the Lord, Mighty God
Bless and keep you forever
Grant you peace, perfect peace
Courage in each endeavor.*

*Lift up your eyes and see his face
Touch his grace forever
May the Lord, Mighty God
Bless and keep you forever.*