

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY  
**LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

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

Rev. Kay Young, Pastor

*Connect • Grow • Serve*

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**Order of Worship & Liturgy**  
Sunday – September 5, 2021

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**PRELUDE:** *“My Lord, What a Mornin’” African American Spiritual;*  
*Arranged by Cindy Berry*

*(Rachel Kramer)*

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

*(Shirley Pierce & Laura Reis)*

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

*(Pastor Kay)*

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Greg Pohlman)*

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(Greg leads Congregation)*

Leader: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

**People:** *Lord, help us to truly listen to you.*

Leader: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

**People:** *Lord, help us to work for you.*

Leader: Lord, make us ready to serve.

**All:** *Lord, make us ready to witness your healing love. Amen.*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

*(Greg announces hymn)*

**\* HYMN OF ADORATION:** *“God of Grace and God of Glory” No. 435 (verses 1 & 4)*

*God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy pow’r.  
Crown Thine ancient church’s story;  
Bring her bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.*

*Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces  
In the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man, nor Thee,  
That we fail not man, nor Thee.*

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(Greg leads Congregation)*

*Christ, we confess that we have closed ourselves off. We have been silent when we should have spoken up, and uncaring in the face of injustice. We have not shown the same generosity to others*

that You have shown us. We have seen so much suffering that we stop looking, rather than see and respond to those in need. Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another and follow in the example You set for us. In Your name we pray. **Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

(Pastor Kay)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous 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** (updates from Prayer List)

(Pastor Kay)

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

(Pastor Kay)

### **\* RESPONSE TO PRAYER**

Gracious God of heaven, hear us as we pray.  
Grant us bold creative spirits, this and every day.

### **YOUTH MESSAGE**

(Pastor Kay)

### **SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION & READINGS**

(Greg)

**Introduction to Scripture:** The book of **Proverbs** is wisdom theology rooted in knowledge about God gained through the study of creation and human nature. "Fear of the Lord," refers to more than simple fear; it is the awe, obedience, and proper relationship with God which can undergird all attempts at gathering knowledge and living wisely. The **James** scripture is complex. James was probably written before the Jewish War of 66-70 C.E. The author, whether it was James (the brother of Jesus, who was also martyred) or another who admired the memory of James, was faithful to the simplicity and truth of Jesus' teachings. The writings could indicate that James' listeners were Jewish Christians, as well as non-Jews, who were attracted to monotheism One-God teachings. The writings show that different interpretations of Christianity were already current. In James, the emphasis is on a Christianity that emphasized prayer and morality and was always loyal to the teachings of Jesus – calling Jesus, Lord, and looking for his return.

### **Proverbs 22: 1-2 (8-9) 22-23 (NRSV)**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

## **James 2: 1-10 (11-13) 14-17 (NRSV)**

*My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.*

*For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.*

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

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

## **SERMON: "An Evolving Faith"**

*(Pastor Kay)*

## **\* HYMN OF INVITATION: "Open Our Eyes, Lord" No. 633**

*(Greg announces hymn)*

*Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.*

*Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.*

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Pastor Kay & Elders)*

Invitation to the Table

Consecration & Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

## **THE APOSTLES CREED**

*(Greg 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

(Greg)

*“Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.” Let us celebrate our blessings with generosity. We do not bring bread today, but we offer a portion of God’s gifts to us for the ministries of the church, in the hope that our gifts meet the needs of those who often go without. Let us now gather our tithes and offerings.*

**Offertory Music:** **“Amazing Love (My Lord, What Love is This)”** by Graham Kendrick;  
Arranged by Carol Tornquist

### **\* Doxology**

*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)

(Greg leads Congregation)

*Generous God, you call us to reach out to those in need with kindness rather than judgment – and with generosity, not just good intentions. Bless our gifts and our actions, may they be used to protect the afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. **Amen.***

### **\* HYMN:** **“Lord, Speak to Me”** No. 667 (verses 1 & 4)

(Greg announces hymn)

*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thine erring children, lost and lone.*

*O use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where,  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.*

## **BENEDICTION**

(Pastor Kay)

### **\* SONG OF GOING OUT:** **“Deep Peace”**

*Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.  
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you,  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.*