



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

Rev. Kay Young, Pastor

*Connect • Grow • Serve*

**Happy  
Grandparents Day!**

Thank you for your  
unconditional love.

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## Order of Worship & Liturgy Sunday – September 12, 2021

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**PRELUDE:** *“Awesome God”* by Rich Mullins; Arranged by Jerry Ray (Rachel Kramer)

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES** (Debbie Vater & Ann Duncan)

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

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Bob Elliott)

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

Leader: Just as the heavens burst forth in praise to you, O God

**People:** *Together we celebrate Your abundant and powerful love today.*

Leader: Day by day, and night by night

**People:** *You watch over us, loving and healing us.*

Leader: Come, celebrate aloud and in your hearts, the great joy we can have in the love of God.

**ALL:** *Open our hearts and spirits, Lord, and teach us your ways. Amen.*

### **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

*(Bob announces hymn)*

**\* HYMN OF ADORATION:** *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”* No. 169 (verses 1, 2 & 5)

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart,  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
Your festal banner wave on high -  
The cross of Christ, your King.  
Rejoice, rejoice,  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*With all the angel choirs,  
With all the saints of earth,  
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,  
True rapture, noblest mirth.  
Rejoice, rejoice,  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

*Praise God who reigns on high,  
The Lord whom we adore;  
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost -  
One God forevermore.  
Rejoice, rejoice,  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

## **\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(Bob leads Congregation)*

Christ calls on us to “lose our life in order to save it” and to “take up our cross and follow” in the ways of justice and peace. Like the disciples before us, we are often amazed and overwhelmed by this command. Forgive us when we close our ears to such challenge and our hearts to such risk. **Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(Pastor Kay)*

God’s words and actions are never careless. In sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a companion – a source of ever-flowing love, acceptance and wisdom. In Christ we are forgiven all our failings, and given strength to start again. **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**

*(Bob)*

**Introduction to Scripture:** **James** again is writing to churches who have just begun their work together for making known the work of God, through the Son, Jesus. The churches need the letters from the disciples who helped them organize in order to proliferate the compassion, understanding, love and forgiveness of God in their congregations. And in **Mark**, we hear Jesus speaking his TRUTH. It is from **Mark** that the actual historical event is so poignantly told of the importance of Jesus’ coming to earth for all time.

### **James 3: 1-12 (NRSV)**

**Taming The Tongue:** *Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.*

*How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species – but no one can tame the tongue – a restless*

evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

### **Mark 8: 27-38 (NRSV)**

Peter's Declaration About Jesus: Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection: Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them, the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

### **SERMON: "The Good Life"**

(Pastor Kay)

(Bob announces hymn)

**\* HYMN OF INVITATION: "Nearer, My God, to Thee" No. 553 (verses 1 & 4)**

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!

### **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Offering

(Bob)

In our uncertain world, we never know when our gifts will be needed. Sometimes when we look at tasks like world peace, eliminating child hunger and poverty, the end of COVID, or balancing a church budget, it's easy for us to underestimate the impact of our individual efforts and gifts. God can

accomplish great things when His people commit their lives and resources to Him. The gifts we present this morning can indeed transform the world in which we live. Let us now gather our tithes and offerings.

**Offertory Music: "He Knoweth the Way"** by Mac Lynch; Arranged by Kenon D. Renfrow

**\* 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) (Bob leads Congregation)

*All around us, we are reminded that we are not on our own. Our lives intersect with the poor, the hungry, the homeless – all our sisters and brothers. As we seek to follow the Lord, we share from the abundance You have poured out upon us, so all might experience Your grace, life and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.***

*(Bob announces hymn)*

**\* HYMN: "Wherever He Leads I'll Go" No. 598 (verses 1 & 4)**

*"Take up thy cross and follow Me," I heard my Master say;  
"I gave My life to ransom thee, Surrender your all today."  
Wherever He leads I'll go, Wherever He leads I'll go,  
I'll follow my Christ who loves me so, Wherever He leads I'll go.*

*My heart, my life, my all I bring To Christ who loves me so;  
He is my Master, Lord, and King, Wherever He leads I'll go.  
Wherever He leads I'll go, Wherever He leads I'll go,  
I'll follow my Christ who loves me so, Wherever He leads I'll go.*

**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.*