



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

Rev. Kay Young, Pastor

Connect • Grow • Serve

Order of Worship & Liturgy

Sunday – September 26, 2021

PRELUDE: ***“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”*** Spanish Folk Tune; Arranged by Roger Summers
(Rachel Kramer)

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: It’s beautiful today, God – a great day to be here together.

People: ***There are so many things we can do to serve the Lord.***

Leader: Just listen for God’s call to you and let God guide your life.

People: ***We are willing to open our hearts and lives to serve God.***

Leader: Come, let’s worship and celebrate God’s good news for us.

All: ***We are willing to open our lives to God’s service. Amen!***

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

*** HYMN OF ADORATION:** ***“He is Exalted”*** No. 36

(Bill announces hymn)

*He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.*

*He is exalted, forever exalted,
And I will praise His name!*

*He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name,
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.*

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(Bill leads Congregation)

Patient Lord, we know that you call us to service, but we often feel inadequate. We love to make excuses for not doing something or for doing something only half-heartedly. Remind us again of your loving and guiding presence. Forgive us when we stumble and falter. Turn us again to you, serving joyfully and confidently. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Pastor Kay)

Beloved Ones, you are the salty people – those who bring flavor to living. Your spirit of love and confidence gives hope to others. Remember that the Lord is always with you. **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 (Prayer List updates)

(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.*

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION & READINGS

(Bill)

Introduction to Scripture: **James 5:1** begins the final eight verses of James' letter to Christian churches. James has been described as part of the wisdom literature because he calls his congregation back to the wisdom of God. James tells them to pray for each other, sing songs of praise, call for elders, anoint with oil, confess to each other and bring wanderers back home. The **Gospel of Mark** may have been the first interpretation of the traditions about Jesus in early Christianity. Authentic discipleship and self-sacrificial service to God is exemplified by minor characters and Jesus himself.

James 5: 13-20 (NRSV)

The Prayer of Faith: Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9: 38-50 (NRSV)

Another Exorcist: John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

Temptations to Sin: “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to

stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

SERMON: “The Smallest Act”

(Pastor Kay)

*** HYMN OF INVITATION: “Jesus Loves Me” No. 185 (verses 1-3)**

(Bill announces hymn)

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me on my way.
He's prepared a home for me,
And someday His face I'll see.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

(Bill)

Jesus Christ is on our side, offering us the love of God – a love that gives us all we have, a love that makes us all we are. Jesus Christ is with us in every circumstance, suffering with us when we are in trouble, and rejoicing with us when we are glad. The generosity of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love. Let us now gather our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Music: “Jesus Loves Me” by William Batchelder Bradbury, 1861; Arranged by Roger Summers

*** 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)*

(Bill leads Congregation)

Giving God, we can never match your generosity. When we are in need, you are at our side, present to us even in our darkest moments. You rescue us from harm. Make us into a people who celebrate your goodness, drawing others into the celebration of your many blessings. Receive our gifts, even if they are as small as a drink for someone who thirsts. Transform them into the ministry of your reign here and now on earth, in the name of Jesus, your greatest gift. **Amen.**

*** HYMN: “Thy Word” No. 184 (verses 1-2)**

(Bill announces hymn)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear,
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

I will not forget
Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide,
And hold me to Your side.
I will love you to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

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.