



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

Rachel Kramer, Service Leader
Mary Hagar, Liturgist

“WORKING TOGETHER”

Order of Worship & Liturgy – August 17, 2025 – 10:45 AM

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE: “Christians, We Have Met to Worship” - William Moore; Arranged by Mark Hayes
(Selected by Rachel Kramer and performed by Suan Choi)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES (Debbie Moore & Jerry Godsey)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Mary Hagar)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Mary leads congregation)

Leader: In the fire and the flames,
All: Spirit appears to bless and inspire us.

Leader: In the division and the despair,
All: Christ arrives to challenge and invite us.

Leader: In the shadows and the sorrow,
All: God walks alongside to lift us up.

Leader: In this moment, we gather together to worship, to pray, to sing, and to lament.
All: We gather on this blessed journey of life, death, and resurrection.

HYMN: “Down to the River to Pray” *Words on projector screen, not in hymnal* (Mary introduces hymn)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Mary leads congregation)

Challenging Christ, forgive us when we avoid your hard truths. Grant your mercy when we look for the easy path and avoid the path you set before us. Guide us back to where you would have us go. Strengthen us to face the challenge of living faithful lives and of following your lead. Encourage us to rejoice when we see the way forward and love us so fully that we accept your love. Help us live the love you shower on our lives, that we may shower this love on others. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE: “Gloria Patri” No. 812) (Suan)

PRAYER CONCERNS (Jack Denham)

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (Rachel)

RESPONSE TO PRAYER: “O Lord, Please Hear My Prayer” (Suan)

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION (Jack Denham)

Isaiah 5:1-7 introduces a parable of a vineyard, which serves as a metaphor for God's relationship with the nation of Israel. The prophet Isaiah sings a song about a vineyard that, despite the loving care and effort invested in it by the owner, produces only wild grapes. This disappointing harvest symbolizes Israel's failure to live up to God's expectations and the consequences that will follow.

SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 5:1-7** pg. 532 in Pew Bible) (Rachel Kramer)

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled

down. I will make it a waste ;it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

(Rachel Kramer)

Luke 12:49-56 presents a challenging and potentially controversial message from Jesus, where he declares he has come to bring not peace, but division, and to ignite a fire on earth. This passage emphasizes the disruptive and transformative nature of Jesus's message, highlighting how his teachings can create conflict, even within families, as individuals choose to follow him. Jesus speaks of a fire he came to cast on the earth, and a baptism he must undergo. These are not literal fire and baptism, but symbolic representations of God's judgment and purification through Jesus. The fire can be seen as both destructive, consuming what is impure, and transformative, purifying and refining. The baptism refers to Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, a baptism of judgment.

Luke 12:49-56 (pg. 848 in Pew Bible)

(Jack Denham)

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

SERMON: ***"IT'S NOT ALL RAINBOWS AND UNICORNS"***

(Rachel Kramer)

HYMN: "Wade in the Water " *Words on projector screen, not in hymnal* (Jack introduces hymn) (Suan)

RITE OF HEALING AND ANOINTING Intro by Rachel

Responsive readings by Ann Duncan, Jack Denham & people

ANN and JACK BEGIN THE ANOINTING OF EVERY PERSON while Suan plays Amazing Grace.

Responsive readings by Rachel & people.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

(Rachel)

Offertory Music: *"How Can I Keep From Singing?"* by Robert Lowry; Arranged by Larry Shackley

(Selected by Rachel & Performed by Suan Choi)

"Doxology" (No. 815)

(Suan)

RESPONSE TO GIFTS (in unison) (Jack leads congregation) Let us bless all that we have received — the coins and the commitments, the prayers and the promises.

HYMN: "Guide My Feet" *Words on projector screen, not in hymnal* (Jack introduces hymn) (Suan)

BENEDICTION

(Rachel)

SONG OF GOING OUT: "Go Out as People of God" Sing 2X

(Suan)