

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE**

“Veni Sancte Spiritus”  
by Jacques Bethier,  
Songs and Prayers from Taize

Joyce Harris

**WELCOME**

**LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** When we look to the rock from which we were cut,  
and to the quarry from which we were dug,  
we see our ancestors Abraham and Sarah,  
who were alone until God blessed them  
and made them many!

**PEOPLE:** When we look to the cornerstone of the church,  
we see Christ, the Son of the living God.  
Beginning with Peter,  
God has made us into living stones.  
God’s house will stand forever!

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation,  
renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will,  
what is good and acceptable and perfect.  
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN #403** “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

*My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ love and righteousness;  
I dare not trust this earthly frame,  
but wholly trust in Jesus’ name.*

*Refrain*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When shadows veil my Savior's face,  
I rest upon unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.*

*Refrain*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come:**

**Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

**HYMN #507**

**"Jesus- the Very Thought to Me"**

Soloist: Jeanne Kapciak

*Jesus- the very thought to me  
with sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far your face I see,  
and in your presence rest.*

*No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find  
A sweeter sound than your blessed name,  
Savior of human kind.*

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 16: 13-20

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter,<sup>[b]</sup> and on this rock<sup>[c]</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was<sup>[d]</sup> the Messiah.<sup>[e]</sup>

## SERMON

"God's Chosen Rock"

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

## HYMN #693

"A Shelter in the Time of Storm"  
*The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide,  
A Shelter in the time of storm;  
Secure whatever ill betide,  
A Shelter in the time of storm*

(Celebration Hymnal)

### *Refrain*

*O Jesus is the Rock in a weary land,  
A weary land, a weary land;  
O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land-  
A Shelter in the time of storm*

*O Rock divine, O Refuge dear,  
A Shelter in the time of storm;  
Be Thou our Helper ever near,  
A Shelter in the time of storm.*

### *Refrain*

*O Jesus is the Rock in a weary land,  
A weary land, a weary land;  
O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land-  
A Shelter in the time of storm*

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### Invitation to Generosity

#### Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we thank you for the measure of faith  
you have given to each of us.**

**Increase in us generosity, compassion, and prophetic courage  
so we may continue to be your body in and for the world.**

**With thanksgiving, we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN #377**

“Forward Through the Ages”

*Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
Manifold in service, one the sure reward.*

*Refrain*

*Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

*Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
In each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.  
Bound by God’s far purpose in one living whole,  
Move we on together to the shining goal.*

*Refrain*

*Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“One Spirit, One Church”  
By Kevin Keil

Joyce Harris

**Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Online Service**

*Joyce Harris: Organist*

*Jeanne Kapciak: Soloist*

*Dr. Oliver Lawrence: Videographer*

*Pastor Merlyn Lawrence: Senior Pastor*