

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 27, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas

PRELUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Words and Music by John F. Wade

Joyce Harris

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Come, let us praise the Lord our God,
who by divine command,
brought the heavens and the earth into existence.

PEOPLE: **Let us join the sun, the moon and the stars;
the sea, the sky and the mountains;
and all that live there, in praising our creator.**

LEADER: Let us praise the Horn of our salvation.

PEOPLE: **Let us praise the one born
to proclaim good news to the oppressed,
liberty to the captives
and the year of the Lord’s favor to all.**

LEADER: Let us praise the breath of life.

PEOPLE: **Let us praise the Holy Spirit
by whose power we live
and by whose breath and have our being.**

GATHERING PRAYER

LEADER: As we gather electronically,

PEOPLE: **We give praise to you, O God!**

LEADER: In the midst of a pandemic,

PEOPLE: **We give praise to you, O God!**

LEADER: In the midst of our solitude,

PEOPLE: **We give praise to you, O God!**

LEADER: Though we are separated,

O God, your Messiah has brought us close to one another and to you.

For that we give you thanks and praise.

Come, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, receive the gratitude of your people.

PEOPLE: Amen

OPENING HYMN #22 “Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped”

*Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration.
Gladsome rejoice- organ and trumpet and voice-
Joining God’s congregation.*

*Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve;
Strength that can touch and caress us.*

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

PIANO SOLO

“Mary, Did You Know”

Terry Jones

By Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

SERMON

"Let Your Servant Depart in Peace"

Rev. Richard J. Mangnall

HYMN #128

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood high as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid winter, long ago.*

*Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain
Heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable sufficed
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ,*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Prayer of Dedication

Thank you, Holy God, for accepting the praises of you people, gathered in the name of Jesus Christ, even as we are separated from one another. Now grant our heart's desire: that these tithes and offerings may empower us to bring the

salvation seen by Simeon into being; that your people might bring the light of the Messiah to all the world. Amen.

HYMN #77

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace:
Oh refresh us, oh, refresh us,
Traveling thought this wilderness.*

*We give thanks and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound:
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To the truth may we be found.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Joyce Harris
Text by Charles Wesley, Music by Felix Mendelssohn

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

Joyce Harris

Organist

Terry Jones

Pianist

Dr. Oliver Lawrence

Videographer

Rev. Richard Mangnall

Guest Preacher