

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

February 21, 2020

First Sunday in Lent

**PRELUDE**

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

Joyce Harris

TFWS 2162 / CH 211

**WELCOME**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: From water to wilderness:

**PEOPLE: God’s covenant continues;  
God’s kingdom comes near.**

LEADER: On stone and in hearts:

**PEOPLE: God’s covenant continues;  
God’s kingdom comes near.**

LEADER: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**PEOPLE: God’s covenant continues;  
God’s kingdom comes near.**

LEADER: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

**PEOPLE: or where he is, we would be also.**

**OPENING HYMN**

“As the Deer”

*As the deer panteth for the water,  
so my soul longeth after Thee.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship Thee.*

*You alone are my strength and shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship Thee.*

*You're my friend and you are my brother  
even though You are a king.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.*

*You alone are my strength and shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship Thee.*

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

**Gracious God,  
in rushing waters and in dry wilderness,  
in every season and circumstance,  
we need your sustaining word.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
proclaim the good news among us today  
so that we may repent and believe  
and see anew how the kingdom has come near;  
in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

**HYMN** #21TOSB

“Search Me, O God”

Verse 1 only

*Search Me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts I pray:  
See if there be, some wicked way in me:  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free*

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

## **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**

*O Grant us, God, a little space  
from daily tasks set free.  
We meet within this holy place  
and find security.*

*Around us rolls the ceaseless tide  
of business, toil and care  
And scarcely can we turn aside  
for one brief hour of prayer.*

*Yet this is not the only place  
your presence may be found;  
On daily work you shed your grace,  
and blessings all around. e*

**SCRIPTURE**

I Kings 19: 1-19

Liturgist: Sandy Rusnack

**1** Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” **3** Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

**4** But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” **5** Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” **6** He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. **7** The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” **8** He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. **9** At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” **10** He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

**11** He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but

the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup> He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup> Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup> Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

<sup>19</sup> So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him.

## SERMON

"Invitation to Solitude and Silence"

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

## PIANO SOLO

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Terry Jones

By: Adoniram J. Gordon

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2 I love thee because thou hast first loved me  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,  
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,  
and say when the death dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

4 In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

# OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

## Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Hymn      “Father, I Adore You”

### Prayer of Dedication

God of steadfast love and faithfulness,  
we are humbled as we try to do what is right  
and to walk in your ways.

Receive, we ask, these offerings,  
and use them for your own good purposes  
in the church and in all creation.

We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN #292**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew  
that I may love the way you love  
and do what you would do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
Until with you I will one will,  
to do and to endure*

### BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**

“Prelude No 3 from Seven Little Preludes”  
by J.S. Bach

Joyce Harris

### Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Service

Joyce Harris	Organist
Sandra Rusnack	Liturgist
Terry Jones	Pianist
Dr. Oliver Lawrence	Videographer
Rev. Merlyn Lawrence	Senior Pastor

