

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 24, 2020

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE

“Shout to the Lord”

Joyce Harris

Words and Music by Darlene Zschech

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: From God comes my salvation.

PEOPLE: **For God alone my soul waits in silence.**

LEADER: God alone is my rock and my salvation.

PEOPLE: **God is my fortress; I shall never be shaken.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

The present form of this world is passing away.

Therefore, help us to keep our focus on you, Lord,

for true power and steadfast love belong to you. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #173

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

*You have come down to the lakeshore,
seeking neither the wise or the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.*

Refrain

*O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name,
on the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I seek other seas.*

*You know full well my possessions,
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these fishnets and will for working.*

Refrain

*O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name,*

*on thes and I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I seek other seas.*

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 #23

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives would show thanks giving for the goodness of our God.*

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:14-20 and Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Terry Jones

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;[□] repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

3 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ² "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth

10 ¶ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

SERMON "An Impossible Assignment: An Outlandish Response" Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #449 "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling"

*Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
See at the portals Christ is waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.*

Refrain

*Come home, come home,
All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling-
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his God's mercies,
mercies for you and for me?*

Refrain

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

God is our rock and our fortress.
Let us celebrate our abundance
by fearlessly giving a portion
of what has already been given to us.

Offertory Hymn #780

“Doxology”

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Sing praise above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayer of Dedication

**Merciful God, you have saved us for a purpose.
We dedicate these gifts as we dedicate our lives to you,
that you will make us fishers of people**

SPECIAL HYMN

“The Summons”

*Will you come and follow me
If I would but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
In you and you in me?*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Lord of the Dance”
19th- Century Shaker Melody

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Service

<i>Joyce Harris</i>	<i>Organist</i>
<i>Terry Jones</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>
<i>Dr. Oliver Lawrence</i>	<i>Videographer</i>
<i>Rev. Merlyn Lawrence</i>	<i>Senior Pastor</i>