

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 31, 2020

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE

“Great Is the Lord”

Joyce Harris

by Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

PEOPLE: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

LEADER: Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

PEOPLE: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

LEADER: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

PEOPLE: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

LEADER: The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

PEOPLE: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

LEADER: Come! Let us give thanks to God.

GATHERING PRAYER

**Almighty God, Light from Light,
who commands the universe and all that is made,
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,
the force of good, and the food of peace.**

Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue.

**Heal us now so that in all that we say and do,
the freedom we have in you may be for others, too;
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #17 “To You, O God , All Creatures Sing”

*To you, O God, all creatures sing,
and all creation, everything
sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam*

*your silvermoon with softer gleam
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Your wind that blows the tempest by
your clouds that sail across the sky
sings your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing along,
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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 #531

“God Speak to Me , That I May Speak”

*God, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.*

*O lead me, God that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way ;
o feed me so that I may feed
your hungry ones without delay,*

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16 This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” 17 Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own

people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet[e] shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20 But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

SERMON

“Prophets and The Prophetic Word”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #306

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

*The church of Christ in every age
beset by change, but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.*

*Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Hymn

“Largo”

by G. F. Handel

Prayer of Dedication

**For Earth, which you have molded,
for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire,
for Jesus who died and rose again,
for the breath of life, we give you thanks, O God.
Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need,
in the name of all that you have first given us,
especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

HYMN #68

“God Is Truly with Us”

*God is truly with us; sing we and adore now;
the One come before now.
Here within the temple, here in sound and silence,
worship God in deepest reverence.
You alone, God, we own, you O God and Savior;
praise to you forever.*

*God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding!
Echoes of the saints surrounding!
“Holy, holy, holy,” hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; O Christ, the praises
that your church now raises.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**“German Folksong”
by Jakob Paix**

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Service

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