

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 28, 2020

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PRIDE Sunday

PRELUDE

“Prelude No.1 in C Major BWV 846, Joyce Harris
The Well-Tempered Clavier, Vol. 1 by J. S. Bach

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 89)

LEADER: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

PEOPLE: **With my mouth, I will declare your faithfulness
to this generation and all generations.**

LEADER: Your steadfast love is established forever.

PEOPLE: **Your faithfulness as firm as the strongest oak,
as strong as the heavens themselves.**

LEADER: You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, my servant David”

PEOPLE: **Following you,
we have established our own covenant with you and each other,
to affirm the lives of our transgender,
bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings,
to invite them into the full life and ministry of your Church, our church.**

LEADER: For you are the glory of their strength, of our strength

PEOPLE: **By your favor, our burdens are lifted.
For your steadfast love endures all things.**

(Kimi Floyd Reisch, 2020)

GATHERING PRAYER

**God, your child Jesus taught us to welcome each other,
but welcome often seems too little in this world.**

**Welcome, without affirmation, becomes an empty promise,
Devoid of the lesson that to truly welcome each other
means to see the face of God in each other.**

**We commit to affirm all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people,
Welcoming them and affirming them as God’s beloved creations.**

**You taught us that whoever welcomes a prophet
in the name of a prophet will see a prophet's reward;
That whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person
will receive the reward of the righteous.**

**We know that until we are all free, none of us can be free,
And we commit to co-creating that world of welcome and affirmation
until all people can access that promise. Amen. (KFR. 2020)**

OPENING HYMN #28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

*For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which form our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

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**

SOLO #351 "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" Jeanne Kapciak

*I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.*

*I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:24-31 and Exodus 3: 13-15
(Read Esther 4:1-17 at home)

Genesis 1:24-31

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humankind^[a] in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[b] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humankind^[c] in his image,
in the image of God he created them;^[d]
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Exodus 3:13-15

¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”^[a] He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD,^[b] the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

SERMON

“The Courage of Coming Out:
I Am Who I Am”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

*Spirit of love, you move within creations,
drawing the threads of color and design:
Life into life, you knit our salvation,
come work with us, and weave us into one.*

RENEWAL OF OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every ability, race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and economical status.

We are committed to modeling a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing, and wholeness to the life of all people.

We believe that through our diversity, all can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.

Therefore, in faithfulness to the gospel and our United Church of Christ identity, and to the best of our ability, we promise to provide programs, ministries, and pastoral care to all who seek God in this place.

Immanuel United Church of Christ boldly claims,

**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”**

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We are all one human family. In your love you created us.
Through your grace you reach out to us.
You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time.
Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love.
Teach us to weave our lives together.
We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good.
In this way, each day, we begin again in love. Amen. (MK, 2020)**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”
Terry Jones (Pianist)

By: W. Bradbury
Lyrics: A. Warner

*Jesus Loves Me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
And each of us to Him belong, We may be weak but our God is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves Me! Yes, Jesus loves Me!
Yes, Jesus loves Me! The Bible tells Me so*

*Jesus loves Me and I'll stay close beside Him all the way
And if I trust Him when I die, He will take me to my Home on high.*

*Yes, Jesus loves Me! Yes, Jesus loves Me!
Yes, Jesus loves Me! The Bible tells Me so*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Gavotte with Variations” Joyce Harris
By Thomas DuPuis

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Online Service

*Joyce Harris: Organist,
Terry Jones: ONA Chair, Liturgist and Pianist
Jeanne Kapciak: Soloist
Pastor Merlyn Lawrence: Senior Pastor
Dr. Oliver Lawrence (Videographer)*