

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

“Give Thanks”
by H. Smith, arr. by K. Barker

Joyce Harris

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

PEOPLE: **God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

GATHERING PRAYER

**Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world.
Give us strength to believe in him
that we may share in his victory over the power of death
and fulfill the purpose for which you have made us,
for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #106 “My Heart Sings out In Joyful Praise” Verses 1 and 3

*My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
To those who seek their Master’s will in every time and place.*

*The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free.
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess where we have erred and fallen short of all God requires of us

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin
and the hypocrisy of our complaints.**

**We grumble about the evils in our world,
even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.
We fret about the scarcity of resources
while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.
We protest the problems of our world,
but we do not actively work to address them.
Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.
Heal and free us from our foolish ways
that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Indeed, God did not send Jesus into the world
to condemn the world, but that the world
might be saved through him.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

**“Wait for the Lord”
by Jacques Bernthier**

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.
(Repeat 2 more times)*

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

“Make Me a Channel of your Peace”

Jeanne Kapciak

SCRIPTURE

I Kings 19: 11- 14

Liturgist: Suzanne Sebenste

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; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ 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?" ¹⁴ 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."

SERMON

"Waiting for God"

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #556 CH

"Trust and Obey"

*When we walk with the lord in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.*

Refrain

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

*But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows
are with them who will trust and obey.*

Refrain

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Hymn
#2195 TFWS

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"
by Jacques Bernthier

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind.
Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives
and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love,
in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN #CH557

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

*I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to Thee*

Refrain

*Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None, but thee, dear Lord, none but thee*

Refrain

*Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Inventio No. 13 in A Minor, BWV #784”
By J. S. Bach

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

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| <i>Joyce Harris</i> | <i>Organist</i> |
| <i>Suzanne Sebenste</i> | <i>Liturgist</i> |
| <i>Jeanne Kapciak</i> | <i>Soloist</i> |
| <i>Dr. Oliver Lawrence</i> | <i>Videographer</i> |
| <i>Rev. Merlyn Lawrence</i> | <i>Senior Pastor</i> |

One Great Hour of Sharing March 14, 2021



Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow.

Access to clean fresh water is vital for all of humanity, but for women in particular, water access means the difference between life and death for them and their families. The United Nations International Observance of **World Water Day** (March 22) reflects on the importance of water in our daily lives and remembers those who lack access to adequate drinking water supplies.

For women and girls around the world, it can be a 12 hour walk to the nearest water source to collect water to maintain basic needs and crucial hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With your support, 100 families will benefit from the Water Well project, sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM). When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the hopeful future of women and girls around the world and serve as co-workers with God to build *a just world for all*.

Send your 2021 OGHS donation, along with your regular tithe, as soon as possible to:
2201 Azalea Dr.
Highland, Indiana 46322

And let your love flow.