

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

## PRELUDE

“Sanctuary”

Joyce Harris

By J.H. Thompson, R. Scruggs,  
arr. N. L. Butler - Moore

## WELCOME

## LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

### CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Heaven is declaring God’s glory;  
the sky is proclaiming God’s handiwork.

**PEOPLE: One day gushes the news to the next,  
and one night informs another what needs to be known.**

LEADER: There is no speech; there are no words;  
their voices cannot be heard by us.

**PEOPLE: Yet their sound extends throughout the world;  
their words reach the ends of the earth!**

### OPENING HYMN #627CH “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

*I want Jesus to walk with me.  
I want Jesus to walk with me.  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
O, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*In my trials, Lord, walk with me.  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me.  
When my heart is most breaking,  
O, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

### GATHERING PRAYER

**Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness,  
whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world,  
we thank you for the scandal of the cross.**

**In Jesus Christ, you overturn all our usual  
ways of behaving and believing.**

**You scatter our false notions of discipleship  
as easily as coins are spilled from a box.**

**You correct our notions of piety and order with fierce passion.  
Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution.  
Raze to ruins what is distorted in us,  
and raise us to new life as a community  
so that we may be the body of Christ in and for the world.  
With fear and joy we ask this in Christ's name. Amen**

**HYMN #188**

**“Give Me a Clean Heart”**

*Give me a clean heart so that I may serve you .  
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.  
For I am worthy of all these blessings,  
Give me a clean hearty and I'll follow you.*

**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**

**HYMN #601UMH**

**“Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet ”**

*Refrain*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.*

*When I am afraid, think I've lost my way,  
still you are there beside me,  
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.*

*Refrain*  
*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*  
*and a light unto my path.*  
*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*  
*and a light unto my path.*

*Now I will not forget your love for me*  
*and yet my heart forever is wandering.*  
*Jesus , be my guide and hold me to your side,*  
*and I will love you to the end.*

*Refrain*  
*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*  
*and a light unto my path.*  
*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*  
*and a light unto my path.*

**SCRIPTURE**

I Kings 19:8-12

Liturgist: Nelda Heller

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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?" <sup>10</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>11</sup> 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.

**SERMON**

"The Journey to the Mount of God"

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

**PIANO SOLO**

"Behold the Cross"

Terry Jones

By: Bob Hurd

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Noisy Offering** – Back Bay Mission - Biloxi, Mississippi

**Offertory Hymn** "O, How He Loves You and Me" by K. Kaiser

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Receive these gifts, O God.  
to spread your gospel near and far,  
in Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

Words of Institution

Distribution of Bread and the Cup

**□Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

**We give thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us at your table  
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another  
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**HYMN #488**

“I Will Trust in the Lord”

*I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.  
I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord till I die.*

*I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,  
I'm gonna treat everybody right, till I die  
I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,  
I'm gonna treat everybody right, till I die*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“How Great Thou Art”

Joyce Harris

By S. K. Hine

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

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

