

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 15, 2020

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
From Herz und Mund und Leben

Joyce Harris

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP*

LEADER: Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations;

PEOPLE: You have been our home throughout all the ages.

LEADER: You were there before the world was made
and will be forever.

PEOPLE: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

GATHERING PRAYER

**O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure
that is truly beyond all value.**

Your generosity and goodness astound us!

**Inspire us to teach your commandments and
share your gospel,**

that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #303

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

*Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death’s sting
and triumphs evermore.
Life up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Our Savior Jesus reigns,
The God of truth and love;
The lamb who purged our stains
is crowned with power above.
Life up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

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 #581 CH

“Near to the Heart of God”

*There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
A place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.*

Refrain

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before you near to the heart of God*

*There is a place full release, near to the heart of God;
A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God*

Refrain

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before you near to the heart of God*

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4: 1-9

4¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters,¹ whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

SERMON

“Stand Firm! Rejoice in the Lord, Always!”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #506

“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

*What a Friend We Have In Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to our God in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to our God in prayer!*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory:

Prayer of Dedication

O God of constancy, you are our home and dwelling place forever.

**Thank you for giving your people a gift
beyond all value, the treasure of eternal life.**

Bless our gifts that we offer you this day.

**With them may we share your love with others,
that all may enter into your eternal joy. Amen.**

HYMN #490

“I Want Jesus to Go with Me”

*I want Jesus to go with me;
I want Jesus to go with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Oh I want Jesus to go with me.*

In my trials, O comfort me;

*In my trials, O comfort me;
When my heart is always breaking
O I want Jesus to comfort me.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Seven Little Preludes, No 2”
by J. S. Bach ”

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today’s Service

Joyce Harris

Organist/ Pianist

Dr. Oliver Lawrence

Videographer

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

Senior Pastor