

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 22, 2020  
Reign of Christ Sunday

## PRELUDE

“Give Thanks”  
Words and Music by Henry Smith

Joyce Harris

## WELCOME

*The Liturgy for our Worship Service today was written  
by the UCC Council of Conference Ministers offered as nourishment for our souls.*

## LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Written by Rev. Mike Denton (Pacific Northwest Conference of UCC)*

LEADER: Gather near you gifted people; you beautiful people;  
you wonderful people.

PEOPLE: **Gather near for you are Beloved.  
Gather even closer if you feel you are not.**

LEADER: Come gather in this place / in this no place sanctuary  
so that we can celebrate and honor the God of every place.

PEOPLE: **We are both near and far; close and distant; together and apart  
yet known and loved and treasured and held and blessed by a God  
who created us as a gift to the world.**

LEADER: Gathered in this time of sanctuary,  
may we recognize and celebrate the gifts that are present here  
and ask for God's guidance as we discern how to share them.

PEOPLE: **Gather near you gifted people; you beautiful people;  
you wonderful people.**

LEADER: Gather near for you are Beloved.

PEOPLE: **Gather even closer if you feel you are not  
because the good news for today is that you are**

## GATHERING PRAYER

*Written by Rev. David Popham (Hawaii Conference of UCC)*

LEADER: God of Life prepare our hands for a new and different touch;  
A touch of meeting, of awakening, of hope, of feeling.

**PEOPLE: God of Life prepare our feet for a new and different path;  
A path of happenstance, of awareness, of courage, of mood.**

LEADER: God of Life prepare our speaking for a new and different voice;  
A voice of engagement, of recognition, of potential, of regard.

**PEOPLE: God of Life prepare our living for a new and different life;  
A life of gathering, of beginnings, of expectations, of import.**

LEADER: Give us daring as you create within us and among us the community  
that explores meaningful ways to move  
into your realm of kin-dom closeness. Amen

**OPENING HYMN #436** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

*God of grace and God of glory,  
On your people pour your power;  
Crown your ancient church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.*

*Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces,  
in the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
In our quest for liberty  
In our quest for liberty.*

## **A PRAYER OF DAILY THANKSGIVING**

*Written and read by David Long-Higgins (Heartland Conference), September 2020*

I thank you Love,  
For the gift of this day,  
For its possibilities  
For its challenges  
For all that will draw me  
To You and your creation  
In the work and rest  
That is your gift to me.

I thank you  
That the breath of life  
Flows in and out of me  
As a gift not of my making  
But of your design,  
That I may remember  
Your inspiration and call  
In each moment  
Of each second,  
Of each hour.

Let me now attend  
With a thankful heart  
To Your forming work  
That I may be molded  
Into whatever expression  
Of love you desire.  
And in this  
May your highest hope  
Be my deepest desire  
Formed by You,  
O Love,  
For the healing Of the world...

**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 #28**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

*For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,  
Refrain*

*God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of joyful praise*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.  
Refrain*

*God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of joyful praise*

**SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 95: 1-7a

Liturgist: Terry Jones

*<sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
<sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!  
<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.  
<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.  
<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.  
<sup>6</sup> O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!  
<sup>7</sup> For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.*

**REFLECTION**

“Sing to the Lord!”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

**MEDLEY OF HYMNS**  
Joyce Harris & Terry Jones

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“O When the Saints”  
By Michael G. Sinschack

**HYMN #52**

“There is a Name I Love to Hear”

*There is a name I love to hear, I hope to sing its worth;  
It sounds like music to my ear, the sweetest name on earth.*

**Refrain**

*O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.*

*It tells my Savior's love for all; Christ died to set us free;  
Whatever problems may befall, we live in dignity.*

**Refrain**

*O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.*

**HYMN #469 UMH**

“Jesus is All the World to Me”

*Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all;  
he is my strength from day to day, without him I would fail.  
When I am sad, to let him go, no other one can cheer me so,  
When I am sad, he makes me glad, he's my friend.*

*Jesus is all the world to me, and true to him I'll be;  
O how could I this friend deny, when he's truer to me?  
Following him I know I'm right, he watches o'er me day and night;  
Following him by day and night, he's my friend.*

**PIANO SOLO**

“His Eye is On the Sparrow”

Terry Jones

**HYMN #14**

“How Can I Give Thanks”

*How can I give thanks for the things you have done for me?  
Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me;  
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude,  
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to you.  
To God be the glory, to God be the glory,  
To God be the glory for the things you have done.*

***Refrain***

*With your blood you have saved me;  
With your power you have raised me;  
To God be the glory for the things you have done .*

*Just let me live my life and let it be pleasing unto you ;  
And if I gain any praise, let it go to glorify you.*

***Refrain***

*With your blood you have saved me;  
With your power you have raised me;  
To God be the glory for the things you have done*

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory:**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**We have gathered as people of faith to celebrate our beloved community,  
We have gathered as people of faith following in the footsteps of Jesus.  
May we be thankful for the opportunities to share together.  
May we be thankful for the gifts or grace and peace poured over and into us.  
May we be thankful for the faith we are given that lights the path before us.  
May we be grateful for this community,  
and for the gifts we offer you this day.  
With them we share our love with others,  
that all may enter into your eternal joy. Amen.**

*For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing reaping, silent growth while all are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God*

*In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.  
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvest we are sharing, God's will be done.*

## **BENEDICTION**

*Written by Lynn Bunjak (Vermont Conference UCC)*

May we have grace to perceive the bounty of a generous God.  
May we have open hands and open hearts to share this abundance with abandon.  
May we have courage to see and not look away from the injustices  
that rob our siblings of their birthright as children of God.  
May we have the will to make the changes you desire  
for all your people and for the healing of the earth.  
Let us not grow weary and when we do,  
give us to one another so many hands make light work.

May the blessings of God,  
our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer  
go with us always. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

“Glory and Praise Be to the Highest Good,  
Creator of All Good”  
By Johann Krebs

## **Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service**

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