

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 8, 2020

Twenty Third Second Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“O When the Saints Come Marchin’ In”

Joyce Harris

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: People of God, listen:
the Lord has done marvelous things.
Teach your children all that God has done
so that they may live in hope and die in peace.

GATHERING PRAYER

**Eternal God, you are our hope and our salvation,
for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death.
Baptized in him, we are raised to new life.
Increase in us our faith and keep us watchful,
that we may welcome Christ with joy
when he comes to set the whole world free. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #72 CH

“To God be the Glory”

*To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

*Great things he has taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
But higher and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

Refrain
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.

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 #386

“The Church’s One Foundation”

*The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
We are Christ’s new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
With precious blood, Christ bought us for all eternity.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
One charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessings, one holy food we share,
To one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.*

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3: 4b-14

⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as

rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

SERMON

“Pressing Toward the Goal”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #585

“O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face”

O God, we bear the imprint of your face:
The colors of our skin are your design,
And what we have of beauty in our race
As man or woman, you alone define,
Who stretched a living fabric on our frame
And gave to each a language and a name.

O God, we share the image of the One
Whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;
In Christ’ humanity we find our own,
And in your family our proper kin;
Jesus our brother we still crucify;
Love is the language we must learn or die.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory:

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, receive our gifts,
tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings,
signs of trust in your coming reign
of justice, peace, and love; in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

HYMN #171

“Jesus Call Us o’er the Tumult”

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
Saying, "Christian follow me."
Saying, "Christian follow me."*

*As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for Jesus' sake.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"
Harmonization by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

*Joyce Harris Organist/ Pianist
Dr. Oliver Lawrence Videographer
Rev. Merlyn Lawrence*