



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371
www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610
May 3, 2020 • 11:00 a.m.



**Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ!
God is Still Speaking,**

Thank You for taking the time to turn off your cell phone during the worship service.

Prelude

*Bringing in the Light of Christ

(* denotes those who are able may stand.)

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Pastor Liz Wilson

Children's Message "Powerful Witness"

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Ken Martin, Liturgist

One: How awesome to gather before God! We are here to celebrate with wide-eyed wonder.

Many: The God of all worlds is with us. Praise God for this season of Easter.

One: Praise God for all the signs of new life. Praise God for all we can do together.

Many: Praise God for the life and ministry of Jesus. Praise God for all who share that ministry today.

One: Christ came to offer us abundant life. We are here today to reclaim that gift.

Many: We gather in the name of Jesus Christ. We want to follow in the steps of Jesus.

Invocation

Pastor Liz Wilson

Let us hear your voice today, O Shepherd. Call our names and claim us as your own. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Comfort those who suffer pain and loss. Assure all who are afraid. Lead us in right paths for your name's sake. We have known your goodness and mercy in so many times and places. We open ourselves now to receive these gifts again. Unlock within us the barriers that keep us from recognizing and appreciating all the evidence of your love that surrounds us. Amen.

***Hymn: "This is the Day"**

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(Please remain standing for the Prayer of Confession)

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Pastor Liz Wilson

O God, we do not want to admit that our possessions possess us. Yet we do seem captive to all the things we have acquired and all the things we want. We are reluctant to share too much, lest we be deprived of the comforts we cherish. We do not want to suffer for our faith. There are limits to our willingness to follow Jesus. O God, help us trust you beyond these limits.

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made,
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain,
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Jrr.
 Les Garrett, 1967

Words of Assurance

God provides for us as a good shepherd provides for a flock of sheep, seeking green pastures and still waters for us even in periods of famine and drought. In fearful times, amid loss, the Shepherd's care is always available. Surely God's goodness and mercy will restore all who give up their own pretensions in order to live in community, with glad and generous hearts.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Ken Martin, Liturgist

Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers." (Response after each Prayer request)

Silent Meditation

The Lord's Prayer: (use words most comfortable for you)

Ken Martin, Liturgist

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Ken Martin, Liturgist

Page 120 New Testament

Page 501 Old Testament

Page 233 & 234 New Testament

Page 103 New Testament

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Liz Wilson

God, beyond our knowing, yet revealed so personally in Jesus Christ, help us to embrace the abundant life you have offered us. May we follow the example of Jesus, risking abuse and suffering for the sake of your children, trusting in your aiding care for each one of us until all join in praising you with mutual goodwill and joy. Amen.

Sermon:

"Powerful Witness"

Pastor Liz Wilson

*Hymn:

"I Woke Up this Moring"

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Stewardship Message

Announcements

(Be sure to read about up-coming events in the back of the bulletin.)

Offering:

Offertory

*Doxology: (The tune is found on page 356 of your red hymnal.)

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW...

PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW...

PRAISE GOD, ABOVE, YOU HEAVENLY HOST...

CREATOR, CHRIST AND HOLY GHOST...AMEN.

I Woke Up This Morning

85

African-American traditional

Leader (Unison) *All (Harmony)*

1 I woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on
 2 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on

Hal-le - lu - jah,

Je - sus. Woke up this morn-ing with my mind, stayed on Je - sus,
 Je - sus. Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind, stayed on Je - sus.

Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Hal-le-lu - jah,

Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu - jah.

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

The spirituals that were passed down through the African-American oral tradition were not only enduring but also adaptable. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s this spiritual was sung as "Woke up this morn-ing with my mind on freedom."

Tune: WOKE UP THIS MORNING 1st.
African-American spiritual
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

Thanks you, God, for the abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationships you offer and the opportunities for sharing that you provide. May all that we here dedicate to you be distributed in ways that meet human need and offer praise to you. Extend our outreach beyond our vision that we may live in awe and wonder before you, marveling before your goodness and mercy. Amen.

***Hymn: "Lord Make Me More Holy"**

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

***Blessing:**

Pastor Liz Wilson

One: You have been claimed by God, our Good Shepherd. Know God, not as stranger, but as friend.

Many: God is our shepherd; we shall not want. God leads us daily and restores our souls.

One: Easter continues, for Christ lives in us. Jesus came that we might have abundant life.

Many: Daily we receive God's goodness and mercy. Our cups overflow with God's generosity.

One: Let us devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching. Let us pray and break bread together.

Many: We find our lives in giving then to others. In Christ, we discover the joy of service.

Amen: Amen.

***Postlude**

*We scatter to serve******

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

Immanuel Open and Affirming Statement:

We welcome and affirm all people in celebrating diversity. We welcome to our faith family people of every race, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability and those who have doubts or questions.

In Worship and Service Today

Ministry Message: Pastor Liz Wilson

Liturgist: Ken Martin

Choir Director: Ken Martin

Accompanist: Ann McKinley

Our Tech team: Tammy & Ken Martin, Eric Schuette, Larry Douglas, and David Ollie-Ray

Floral Arrangements: A gift created by Amy Wilson

Ministers: All the Immanuel Church faith community

Christian Ed Director: Danielle Willcock

Sunday School: Amy Wilson

Church Officers & Staff

Moderator: Justin Willcock

Vice Moderator: Ken Martin

Treasurer: Art Nagasaki

Council Secretary: Janet Caporale

Clerk: Suzanne Spiker

Church Secretary & Custodian: Sue Molczyk

Building and Grounds Chair: Paul Good

Maintenance: Paul Good

For Pastoral Needs call: Pastor Elizabeth Wilson Cell 1-248-379-3521

Treasury notice will be eliminated for few weeks until there's something to report(\$). Please remember to send tithe even though we are all sitting at home. (Support your church!) Thank you to those who sent their envelopes! Please remember us as we go thru this difficult time. Call each other! Send notes! Send a prayer. Send jokes. Let's stay in close communication. And be Safe! Love you all! Pastor Liz

Lord, Make Me More Holy

75

African-American spiritual

1 Lord, make me more ho - ly. Lord, make me more ho - ly.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Lord, make me more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff features a series of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff maintains a steady accompaniment.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly un - til we meet a - gain.

The third system concludes the main melody. The treble staff ends with a final chord, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment.

- 2 Lord, make me more faith-ful, . . . Faith-ful, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.
- 3 Lord, make me more hum-ble, . . . Hum-ble, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.
- 4 Lord, make me more righ-teous, . . . Righ-teous, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.

The origins of this African-American spiritual have been traced to the area of Charleston, South Carolina, where it may have been sung as a closing hymn for worship. It is one of a number of devotional songs expressing the desire to attain the spiritual character of Jesus.

Tune: LORD, MAKE ME MORE HOLY
5.6.6.5.6.6,
African-American spiritual

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2020

Psalm 23

Powerful Witness

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

The Eternal is my shepherd, He cares for me
always.
He provides me rest in rich, green fields
beside streams of refreshing water.
He soothes my fears;
He makes me whole again,
steering me off worn, hard paths
to roads where truth and righteousness
echo His name.
Even in the unending shadows of death's
darkness,
I am not overcome by fear.
Because You are with me in those dark
moments,
near with Your protection and guidance,
I am comforted.
You spread out a table before me,
provisions in the midst of attack from
my enemies;
You care for all my needs, anointing my head
with soothing, fragrant oil,
filling my cup again and again with
Your grace.
Certainly Your faithful protection and loving
provision will pursue me
where I go, always, everywhere.
I will always be with the Eternal,
in Your house forever.

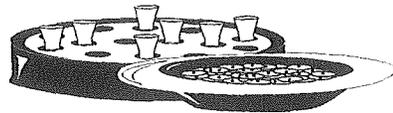
Here are two versions of the familiar 23rd Psalm – one the King James version and one from a newer translation called *The Voice* (Ecclesia Bible Society. Published Apr 9, 2012). Which version speaks to you today?



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION



*THE INVITATION:

Pastor: (Galatians 3:28) "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

People: Jesus understood the weakness of his followers. Thus John's gospel records these words of Jesus: "I ask not only on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word that they may all be one."

Pastor: By gathering together in worship. Singing songs, offering prayers, meditating upon God's word disclosed through the scriptures, and gathering now at the Savior's table, we believe Christ is present as we re-enact the breaking of bread and sharing the fruit of the vine.

People: This is the Lord's Table. All are invited to receive these gifts. In the company with all people in every time and beyond time we gather to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.

(Please be seated)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Wondrous and merciful God, accept our thanks for the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. In and through Christ Jesus our lives are renewed in faith, hope, and love. May your redeeming work continue through your church universal and persons of good will every where.

ACCLAMATION

With joy and thanksgiving, let us approach the Lord's Table. Our sin is forgiven and we are reconciled to God by Christ's death on the cross. Holy, holy, Holy art thou, God of all that has been, is, and yet shall be.

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: We gather in the mystery of Christ who though reigning with God on high is yet present with us now in spirit and in truth. We recall how on the night of betrayal and desertion, after supper Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave thanks, saying to his disciples "This is my body." In the same manner, he took wine and blessed it saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

People: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

GIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

Distribution of the bread

Distribution of the Cup

SERMON

MAY 3, 2020

Acts 2:42-47 A group of people were living in the light of Easter.

1 Peter 2:19-25 Peter seeks to console a struggling congregation with words of hope.

John 10:1-10 Jesus speaks of himself as a door, a door that leads to God.

WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?

You may recall that when John the Baptizer was dunking people in the Jordan, these didn't seem to be babies in frilly lace. It was all adults~probably, male adults. It was disciples and their friends who were baptized. Then, a few hundred years later and several plagues under their belts, priests and leaders realized that many were dying unbaptized (and therefore condemned to hell. I don't know where that came from!) The age of baptism became infancy and as soon as possible. Infant baptism still is the norm today but some Christian sects never did switch to infant baptism. Today the choice also includes "Christening" for many congregations. The tiny child is welcomed into the church. Actual baptism is chosen by the child, parents and teachers when the child is ready~usually 10-14. So, we've just about come full circle. Some Christian denominations are quite strict, others are free choice. The Question?: Is the Resurrection real? If it is, we cannot remain how we always have been. We must change and follow our master faithfully and as best as we can. If resurrection is real. I hope you believe. I do.