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.)

Welcome

Prayer for Immanuel
Lord, we thank you for the many blessings in our lives. We have so much to offer this community. Please lead the people who need us to our door. Help us to extend an extravagant welcome to all and may they find a home in our church family. Amen.

*Call to Worship
One: God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Open yourselves this day to receive the Word.

Many: We have committed ourselves to follow the light. We come now to be instructed by God’s law.
One: Minds set on the flesh are hostile to God. Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

Many: We reach out for more than we can see and hear. We long to know Love’s embrace deep within.
One: The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead. That Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

Many: We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope. God cares for the earth and for each one of us.

Invocation
All — powerful God, we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response to all the possibilities you lay out before us. We are grateful for the revelation you provide through the witness of many in the Scriptures. Through their words, help us to discern your Word. Come to us in the midst of our diversity to bring understanding and mutual caring. Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children. Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world, we long for the richness of spirit you alone can provide. Feed us here, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: “Take My Life, God, Let It Be”
Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con-se-crat-ed faith-ful-ly.
2 Take my spir-it, let it move at the im-pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov-ing over-flow.

Take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my in-tel-lect and use all its pow-ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell-ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com-mu-ni-ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley
House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the
house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not
rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

Page 2
Words of Assurance

God's forgiveness is realized most profoundly by those who understand their own emptiness and seek the refreshment God alone can provide. We are drawn to God and to one another by the Eternal Spirit who will our unity, who offers help with the burdens we carry and invites us to find rest for our souls. Christ assures us: "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

**Congregational Response: “Lord hear our prayers.”** (Response after each Prayer request)

Silent Meditation

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

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:

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<td>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</td>
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Pastoral Prayer

Spirit of Life, whose care for us is constant through low times of despair and high moments of hope, teach us your ordinances that we might not forget your law or stray from your precepts. May your decrees be our joy as you incline our hearts to perform your statutes, that we may bear fruit in our realm, even a hundredfold. Amen.

Sermon: "A House Divided"

*Hymn: "I Will Trust in the Lord"

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.**

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm. Amen.
I Will Trust in the Lord

African-American traditional

Ps. 37:3

1. I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the
2. I'm gonna treat every-body right, I'm gonna treat every-body right, I'm gonna treat every-body right

Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
right, I'm gonna treat every-body right, till I die.

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.
right, I'm gonna treat every-body right, till I die.

One use of this traditional song has been in African-American churches, where someone giving a testimony would raise a verse or two, and be joined by the congregation in singing. Then the person would build a testimony upon the hymn's thematic language.

Tune: TRUST IN THE LORD  Ir.
African-American traditional
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

*The Light of Christ goes into the world*

*Blessing:*

One: Carry the lamp of God’s Word into the week ahead. Share its light with all you meet.

Many: God’s Word lights our path and guides our feet. The heritage we have received is ours to pass on.

One: Do not be bound by concerns of the flesh. Set your minds on matters of the Spirit.


One: Share in daily offerings of praise to God. Pass on the joy of living in the Spirit.

Many: Our hearts are inclined to God’s statutes. Your ways, O God, bring joy to our hearts.

All: 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**

**Message:** Pastor Liz Wilson

**Liturgist:**

**Choir Director:** Ken Martin

**Accompanist:** Ann McKinley

**Our Tech team:** Tammy & Ken Martin,

**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:** Susanne Waldrep

**Church Secretary & Custodian:** Sue Molczyk

**Building & Grounds Team Leader:** Art Nagasaki

**For Pastoral Needs call:** Pastor Elizabeth Wilson  Cell 1-248-379-3521
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
   Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
   But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.

3. And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
   We will not fear for God has willed His truth to triumph through us.

4. That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
   The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.

   For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and power
   For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and power
   You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free! With might-y power to
   You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free! With might-y power to
   The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them; their rage we can en-
   The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them; their rage we can en-
   Let goods and kin-dred go, this mortal life also; the body they may
   Let goods and kin-dred go, this mortal life also; the body they may

   great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.
   great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.
   save, victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.
   save, victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.
   dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit-tle word shall fell them.
   dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit-tle word shall fell them.
   kill: God's truth shall triumph still; God's reign endures for ever.
   kill: God's truth shall triumph still; God's reign endures for ever.

There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.
Calendar at a Glance

Weekly Events
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship & Fellowship
5:30 p.m. Community Meal every Tuesday
5:30 p.m. Wednesdays Neighbors Feeding Neighbors
Choir: Choir will be back in the fall

Thursday, July 20
Church newsletter deadline

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of July:

Birthdays
July 3: Connie Habermehl
July 3: Justin Willcock
July 7: Garrett Wilson
July 15: Aaron Douglas
July 19: Terry Sutton
July 30: Art Nagasaki

Please join us for Sunday Service via Virtual Worship. Go to:
https://www.facebook.com/oxfordimmanuelucc
You do not have to join Facebook, it will ask if you want to join. If not click no and it will still get you to the service.

Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at www.icucc.org

Treasurer's Note:
Our offering for July 9 was $765. We need to collect $1,675 each week to fund our approved budget. Remember to honor your pledge commitments and tithes, especially when you miss any Sundays! Art Nagasaki, Treasurer

Knitters, crocheters and crafters: If you need yarn for projects, we have a wide variety of colors and types in our craft room downstairs. Just let Tammy or Ken know.
A House Divided

In their very conservative town of Colorado Springs, CO, Vista Grande UCC has long been visible as an LGBTQ+ ally, using their sign and flagpole “to proclaim that Black Lives Matter, immigrants deserve justice and queer people are uniquely made in the image of an expansively loving God.”

Rev. Mallory Everhart, Vista Grande’s pastor, believes that the church’s visible commitment to providing safe haven for all on the margins helped the wider community and city to trust the congregation in the wake of last November’s tragic shooting at Club Q on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance. The shooter killed 5 people and injured 22, but Rev. Everhart adds that he “traumatized an entire community.”

Everhart reflects, “On Nov. 20 and beyond, we were true to our reputation and rose up to hold space and provide care to a stunned and terrified community. In their book, Emergent Strategy, activist adrienne maree brown writes that community organizing ‘moves at the speed of trust.’ If I have any advice about crisis response, it’s this: make connections and build trust now. No matter your good intentions, you will not be a community partner in times of crisis if you don’t.”

In today’s reading, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, warning that not all seed that is planted falls on fertile ground. He is speaking as loudly to the church of the 21st century America as he did to his little community in 1st century Palestine. In a world with growing visible division and terror, your church community has the opportunity to sow seeds now that will grow and flourish or will wither and fall away when a crisis arrives. Today is the right day to ask where the seeds you are planting are growing in your congregation, in your community, and in all the world.