



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

October 18, 2026 • 11:00 a.m.



Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ!

God is Still Speaking,

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.

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.)

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "Simple Praise"

Immanuel Choir

Children Message

Dave Noffert

***Call to Worship**

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

One: Come to us, O God

Many: Breathe through our worship with your Holy Spirit

One: Fill us with your faithful love.

Many: Guide us with your ancient teachings.

One: Come to us, O God.

Many: Be in our prayer and praise.

Invocation

Jeff Erno

God of ages past and days to come, help us embrace both your ancient wisdom and your ongoing guidance. Help us hear anew your words from years gone by. Open our hearts and minds to fully embrace what it means to love you, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors as you have loved us. In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

Page 2

Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

God has been our help and our hope from generation to generation. God continues to be our help and our hope, both now and forevermore.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

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

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

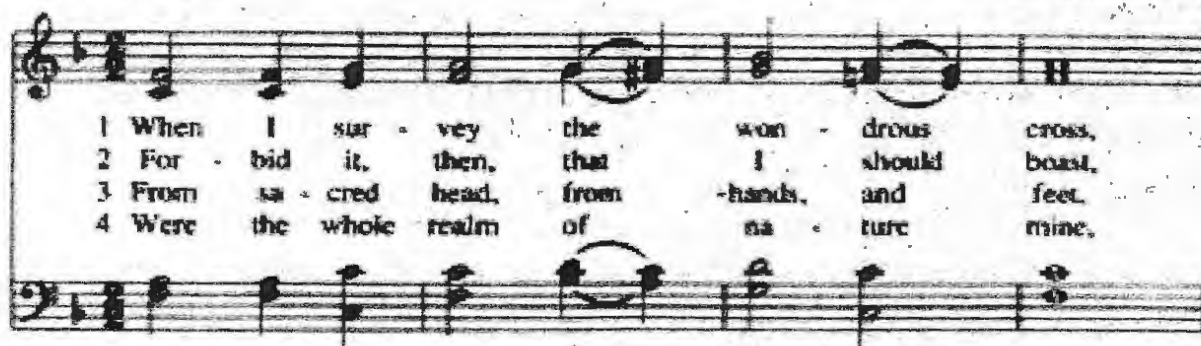
Jeff Erno

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

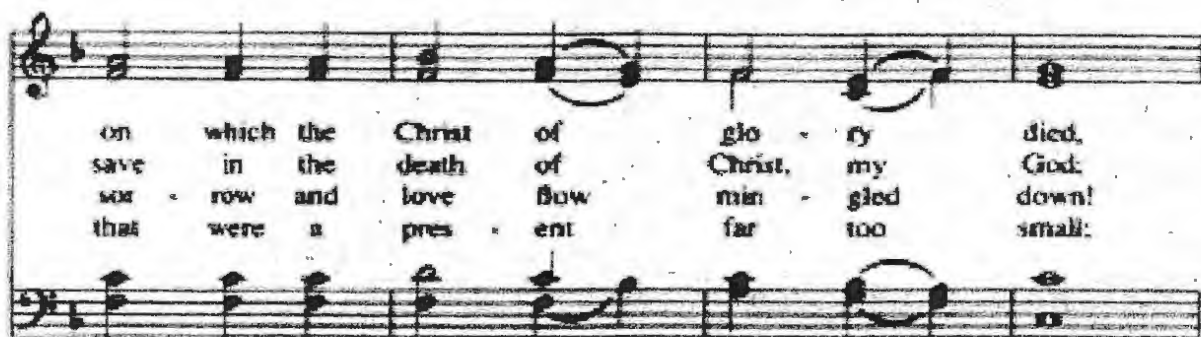
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Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

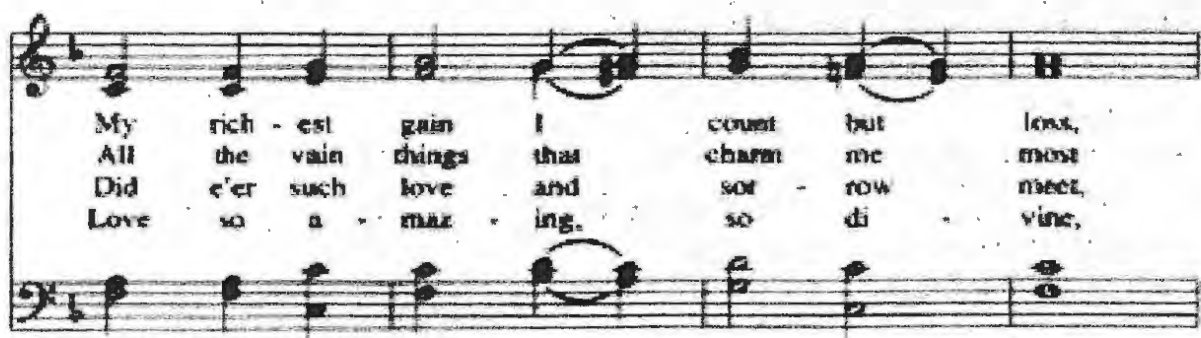
Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:7-8



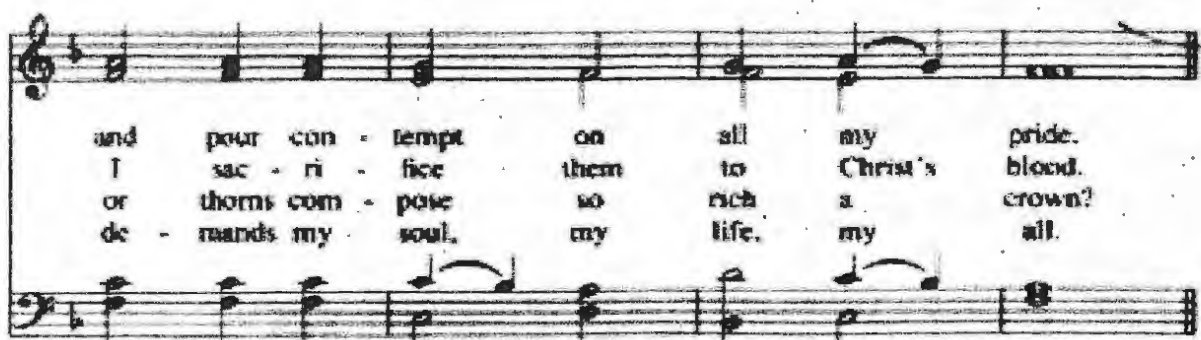
1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross,
2 For - bid it, then, that I should boast,
3 From sa - cred head, from - hands, and feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



on which the Christ of glo - ry died,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
sor - row and love flow min - gled down!
that were a pres - ent far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss,
All the vain things that charm me most
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
Love so a - max - ing, so di - vine,



and poor con - tempt on all my pride,
I sac - ri - fice them to Christ's blood;
or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Originally titled "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ," this hymn has been acclaimed as one of the finest in the English language. Isaac Watts' hymnody grew out of his dissatisfaction with the restraints of the metrical psalter.

Tune HAMBURG L.M.
Lowell Mason, 1823

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

Dave Noffert, 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:

Deuteronomy 6:1-6
Matthew 22:34-40
Luke 10:25-37

Dave Noffert, Liturgist
Page 163 Old Testament
Page 25 New Testament
Pages 71 & 72 New Testament

Sermon: "The Common Thread of the Bible"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Insert

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

Jeff Erno

Gracious God, bless the offerings of ourselves and our gifts. May they be offerings of love, for you and for your people. In loving gratitude, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: "Sing Them Over Again to Me"

Page 4

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: As beloved children of God

Many: Let's go to bring God's love to the world

One: Led by the teachings of Christ,

Many: Let's go to live the lessons of love, justice, and grace.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

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Rev. 4:8-11; Isa. 6:1-8

Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bin and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

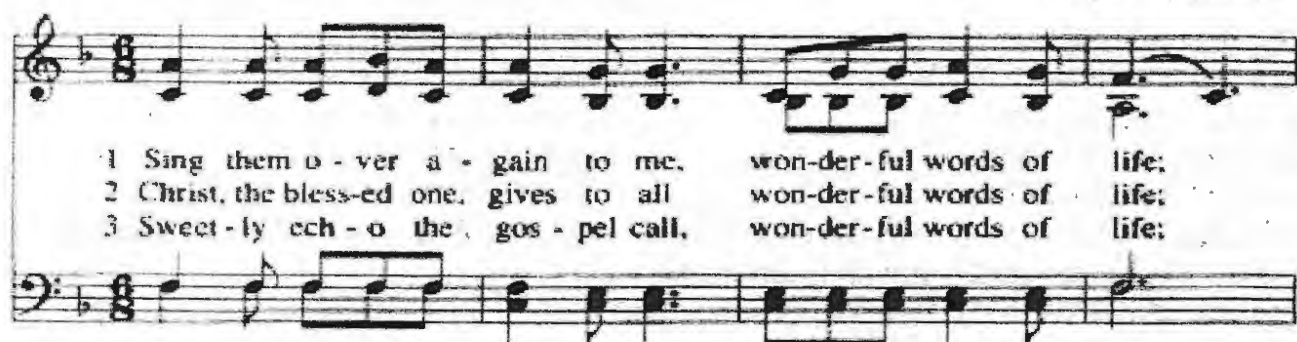
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

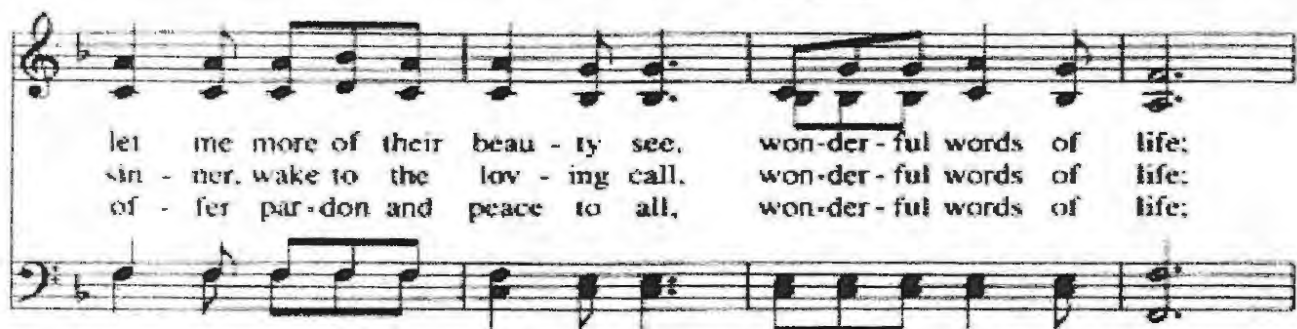
Sing Them Over Again to Me

(Wonderful Words of Life)

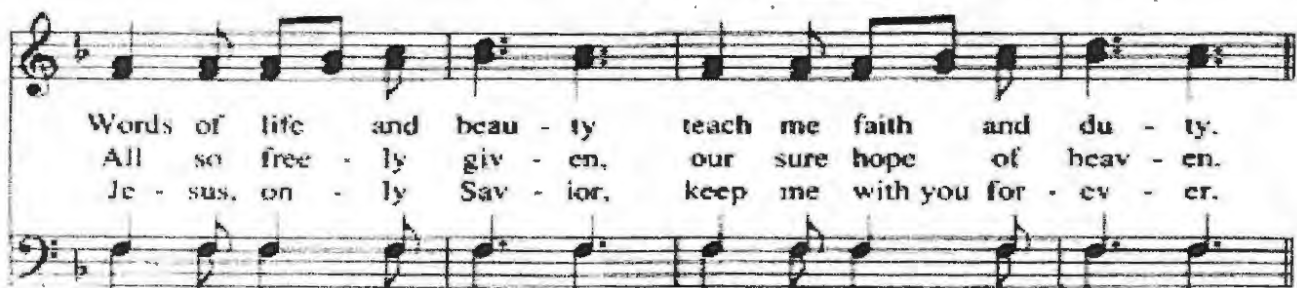
Philip P. Bliss, 1874; alt.



1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won-der-ful words of life;
 2 Christ, the bless-ed one, gives to all won-der-ful words of life;
 3 Sweet-ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won-der-ful words of life;

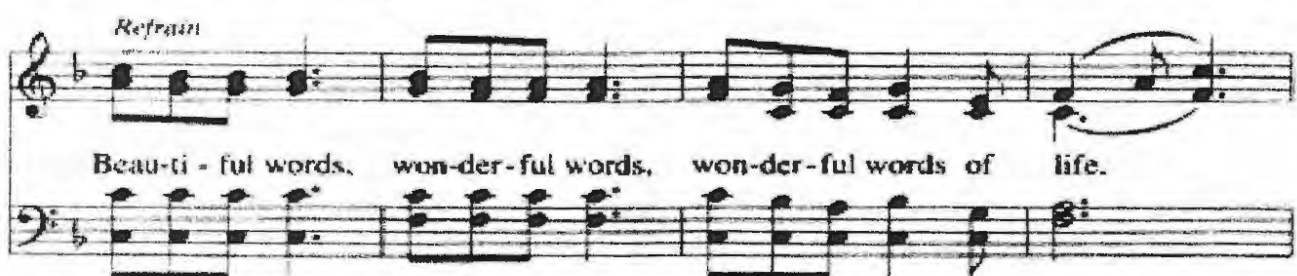


let me more of their beau - ty see, won-der-ful words of life;
 sin - ner, wake to the lov - ing call, won-der-ful words of life;
 of - fer par-don and peace to all, won-der-ful words of life;

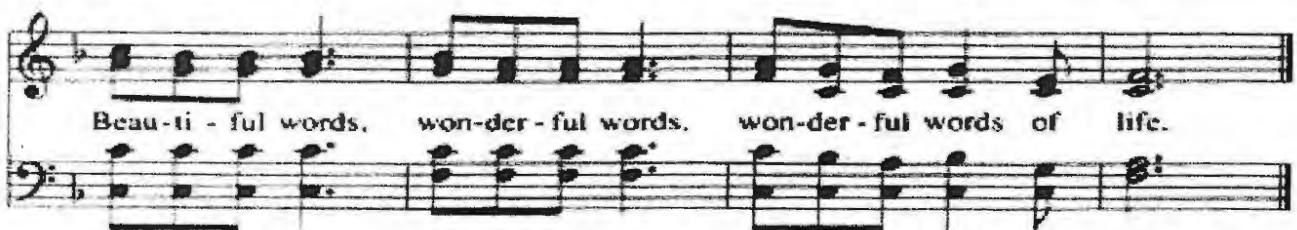


Words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.
 All so free - ly giv - en, our sure hope of heav - en.
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, keep me with you for - ev - er.

Refrain



Beau-ti - ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life.



Beau-ti - ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life.

Philip Bliss wrote this text and tune for the first issue of *Words of Life* (1874). A few years later it was sung as a duet during an evangelistic campaign and became popular immediately.

Tune: WORDS OF LIFE C.M. with refrain
 Philip P. Bliss, 1874

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Dave Noffert

Children's Message: Dave Noffert

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

Sunday School: Amy Wilson, Liz Wilson, Susanne Waldrep

Church Officers & Staff

Moderator: Ken Martin

Vice Moderator: TBA

Treasurer: Art Nagasaki

Council Secretary: Susanne Waldrep

Clerk: Susanne Waldrep

Church Secretary: Sue Molczyk

Building & Grounds Team Leader: TBA

Calendar at a Glance

Weekly Events

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship & Fellowship

5:30 p.m. Community Meal every Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Wednesday Free Meals

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Choir practice (restarts Sept. 9th)

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz" LGBTQ+ Support Group

Saturday, October 31

Halloween Party/details to follow

Sunday, October 18

9:30-10:15 am Bible Study

Sunday, October 25

9:30-10:15 am Bible Study

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of October:

Birthdays

October 4: Sara Schuette

October 9: Trevor Edwards

October 10: Jeff Hanft

October 12: Ann McKinley

October 12: Lucas Schuette

October 13: Lori Hanft

October 22: Patsy Hartz

October 30: Tristin Medeiros

October 30: Ed Sellers

Anniversaries

October 22: Sara & Eric Schuette

- **Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at www.icucc.org**
- **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.**
- **Treasurer's Note:** Our offerings for October 11 was \$921 and October 18 was \$1,205. 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
- **REMINDER** to bring in flexible plastic
- **Kroger** packaging for recycling. Call Peggy with questions. The sock program has been discontinued.
- Please continue to collect and donate your pop can tabs. There's a container in Fellowship Hall. Pop can tabs help support the Ronald McDonald Houses where parents can stay when their child is hospitalized. Tammy will be sending our donation later in May to the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry will be starting up again. If you knit, crochet or fleece tie, see Tammy so we can pick date and time. Also, Prayer Shawls are available to give to those you want to give a prayer and a hug of comfort. See Tammy or Jeff.**
- Please remember to sign the black attendance book at the end of each pew.
- **Pastor Jeff is looking for volunteers for the Transgender Day of Remembrance. If you can help contact Pastor Jeff.**
- **There is a new list of supplies on the kitchen freezer. If you're able to donate put your name on the sheet so we know it's on its way.**
- **Craft room and classroom clean-ups 2-4 p.m. on Tues, Oct. 20, Tues., Oct. 27, Mon., Nov. 2, Tues. Nov. 10. Thanks Tammy 248-672-7860**

People ask Jesus questions for a variety of reason. Sometimes they want to seek answers or ideas. They want to know more about themselves and their place in Christ's kin-dom. They want to hear Jesus' teachings and stories. And sometimes, they just want to trick Jesus, or trip him up. They want to ask him a question with no answer.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

After this exchange, Jesus asks a question that those gathered cannot answer, about the nature of humanity and divinity. Question and answer exchanges are part of living and loving. On this Higher Education Sunday, we honor those institutions connected with the United Church of Christ where questions are welcome not as a barrier to faith, but as a sign of it.

There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited.

Each institution expresses partnership with the church. Closely related schools participate as full members of the UCC Council for Higher Education. Others are historically related, which means they recognize a past relationship with the church but are not full members of the Council.

These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking (<https://www.ucc.org/about/higher-education/>).

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