



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

October 4, 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.)

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Pastor Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "Who Will Help the Hungry"

Immanuel Choir

Children Message

***Call to Worship**

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

One: The heavens proclaim the glory of God!

Many: We too proclaim what God has done in our lives.

One: Voices of praise shout to the ends of the earth.

Many: May we join the chorus, as we sing of God's great and abiding love!

Invocation

Pastor Jeff Erno

Creating God, like the earth around us, we gather to proclaim your glory. We pray that you will revive our souls today. We pray that you will help us become a little bit wiser. We pray that our hearts will rejoice at the sound of your name. We pray that our eyes will be opened to your ways. We pray that we might live in peace and harmony with one another. And we pray that today, and every day, we will again choose to follow in the ways of Christ, so that our lives may become an example of your love and grace to the world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

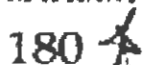
***Hymn: "Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit"**

Page 2

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jeff Erno

Brothers and sisters and siblings in Christ, God will wipe away all our faults. Know that the grace and mercy of God are never far from us, and that God desires that we live in righteousness. In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Mat. 5:3-12, Luke 6:20-23; John 20:29; 2 Cor. 5:17-18

Rusty Edwards, 1993

Unison

1 Blessed are the poor in spir-it: heav-en will some-day be theirs.
 2 Blessed all who thirst or hun-ger: - righ-teous-ly they will be fed.
 3 Each seek-ing peace and jus-tice shall be known as God's own heir.

Blessed are the mourn-ing chil-dren: com-fort comes from One who cares.
 Those who re-spond with mer-cy will see mer-cy up a-head,
 Blessed, too, are those ill-treat-ed for what's good and right and fair.

Blessed the meek and pa-tient, hav-ing cour-age to hang on.
 Blessed the clean in spir-it— beau-ti-ful, the pure in heart;
 Blessed the New Cre-a-tion, joy be-yond what we con-ceive;

Soon all earth they will in-her-it; times of tri-als will be gone.
 One day they will see their Mak-er, nev-er-more to live a-part.
 Blessed all those who trust the prom-ise: with-out see-ing, they be-lieve!

Howard M. Edwards III, who writes as Rusty Edwards, is an ordained Lutheran pastor from Illinois. The tune for this new Beatitudes paraphrase was composed especially to be interpreted by liturgical dancer Annika Gustafson.

Tune: ANNIKA'S DANCE 7.7.7.7/6.7.8.7.
 Jane Marshall, 1993

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Prayer of Confession:

God of grace, from the very beginning, you have watched over your people and given them ways to live in harmony with one another. But too often we have forgotten your ways. Forgive us for mocking your holy name. Forgive us for harming others and ourselves. Forgive us for stealing ideas and property from others. Forgive us for being jealous. Forgive us for neglecting to rest our bodies, minds, and spirits. Forgive us for turning away from you. Holy One, grant us your mercy, and help us live again in your ways of love and grace. Amen.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

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

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Jeff Erno

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

Roxanne Todd, 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:

Exodus 20:1-20

Matthew 5:1-12

Philippians 3:1-11

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

Page 66 Old Testament

Page 4 New Testament

Page 198 New Testament

Sermon: "Ten Commandments or Beatitudes?"

Pastor Jeff Erno

***Hymn: "How Blessed Are They Who Trust In Christ"**

Page 4

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

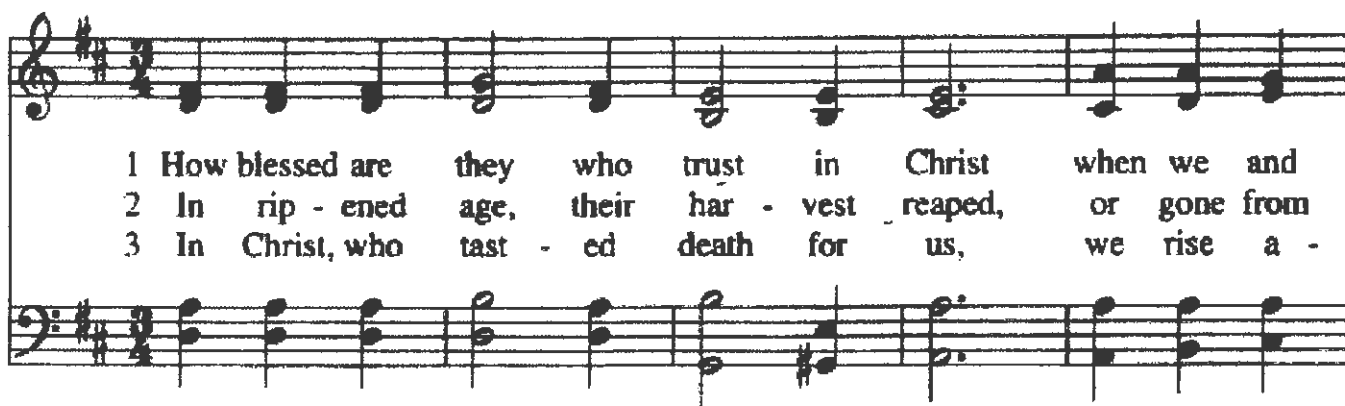
Pastor Jeff Erno

Holy One, creator of all, we give you thanks for all you have entrusted to us. As good stewards, we now bring you these gifts and ask that you use them to help your children around the world. As we bring our gifts, we also offer our lives, praying that you will use us to bear good fruit for all people. Amen

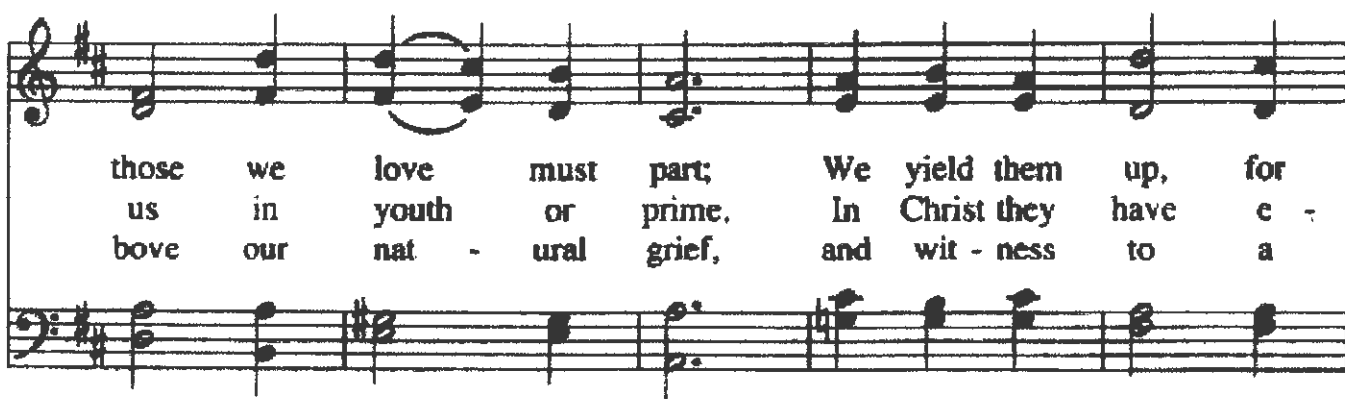
***Hymn: "What a Friend We Have I Jesus"**

Page 5

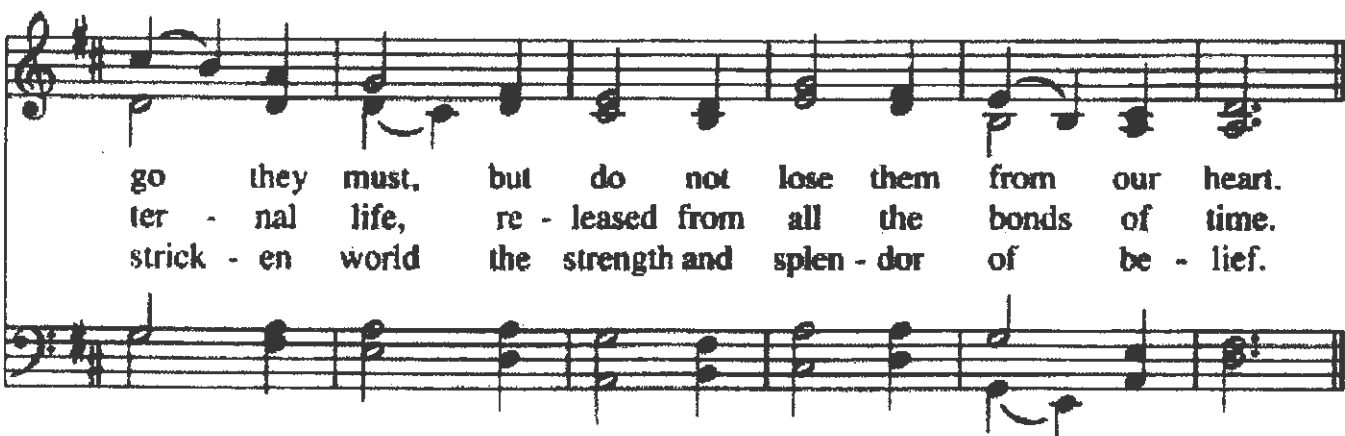
*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*John 3:13-16; Jude 1:20-21**Fred Pratt Green, 1972*


1 How blessed are they who trust in Christ when we and
 2 In rip - ened age, their har - vest reaped, or gone from
 3 In Christ, who tast - ed death for us, we rise a -



those we love must part; We yield them up, for
 us in youth or prime, In Christ they have e -
 bove our nat - ural grief, and wit - ness to a



go they must, but do not lose them from our heart.
 ter - nal life, re - leased from all the bonds of time.
 strick - en world the strength and splen - dor of be - lief.

This text was one of four chosen from 457 entries for publication by The Hymn Society of America in 1980. Works of this eminent British writer have been published in The New Yorker and in anthologies.

Tune: MARYTON L.M.
H. Percy Smith, 1874

Words copyright © 1972 by The Hymn Society

HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME

We invite all who worship with us to partake of Holy Communion. As Christ welcomed all, we too welcome all, regardless of church membership or affiliation, regardless of where all are in life's journey.

INVITATION

One: Come freely, for this table of grace is here for all. Come confidently, for this table of love offers blessings beyond our wildest dreams. Come humbly, for this table is set by Christ, who humbled himself to both live and die in his great love for us.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Lift up your hearts!

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Celebrate God's love!

Many: It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

One: We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace! We celebrate the creative presence that called forth this glorious earth and the heavens above.

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Even when faced with impending death, Christ gave thanks and blessed the fruit of your good earth, offering not only bread and wine, but the bread of life and the wine of salvation.

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. Approach in single file down the center aisle. After all have received the elements, we will partake together.

Let us partake of the bread. Let us partake of the cup.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might be disciples of your love and grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that your life and love might flow through us.

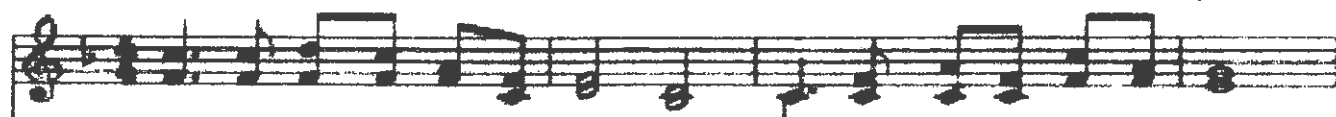
ALL: Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now called to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

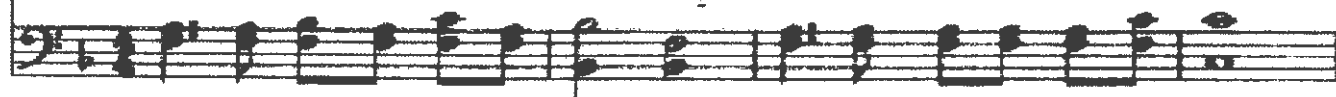
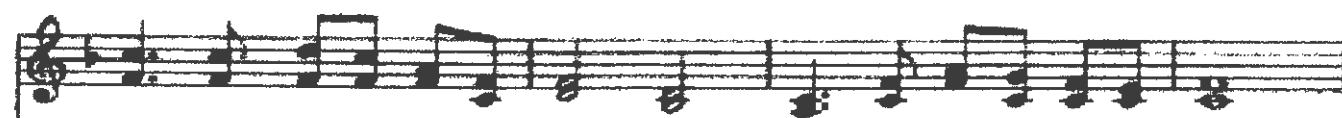
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Joseph Scriven, 1833; alt.

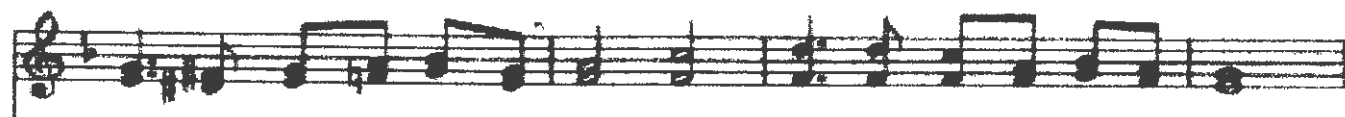
Phil 4:6-7



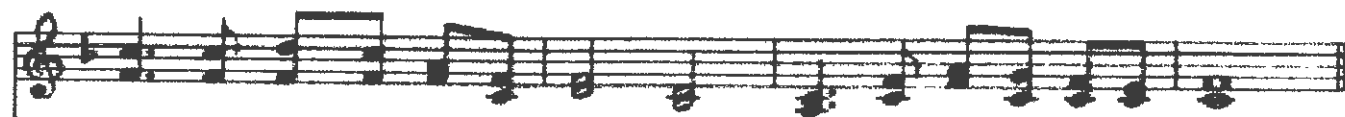
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge. take it to our God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.



No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D
 Charles C. Converse, 1868

*Benediction:

Pastor Jeff Erno

One: May the glory of our Creator be ever present with you.

Many: May the peace of Christ become the foundation of our lives.

One: May the Holy Spirit empower you to keep striving for the ways of Christ

Many: Please, God, help us love as Christ first loved us.

One: Be in peace.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Pastor Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Pastor Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Roxanne Todd

Children's Message:

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

Sunday, October 4

9:30-10:15 am Bible Study

Monday, October 5

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, October 11

9:30-10:15 am Bible Study

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 September 27 is TBA. 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.
- 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
- Please remember to sign the black attendance book at the end of each pew.

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, "The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church's life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework".

For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive.

And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship.

Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and worship rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?

