IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

November 15, 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 "Let Us Join Hands" — Immanuel Choir

Children Message — Dave Noffert

***Call to Worship** — Janet Caporale, Liturgist

One: Raise your eyes to the God of heaven and earth.
Many: We raise our hearts and voices with songs of praise.
One: Awaken your mind to the mysteries of God.
Many: We open ourselves to listen and learn in new ways.
One: Notice your blessings and gifts, miraculously given by God.
Many: We offer our lives and gifts to bless and grow God's love in the world.

Invocation — Jeff Erno

God of mystery and miracles, bless our worship with your presence. Bless our lives with your guidance. Bless our world with your wisdom. May we perceive your mysterious ways as miracles and paths to draw us closer to you and to your realm here on earth. In your holy name, we pray Amen

***Hymn: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"** Page 2

Words of Assurance — Jeff Erno

Jesus has raised us for new life. Jesus shines for us as a light in the dark to help us find our way to God.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns — Janet Caporale, Liturgis
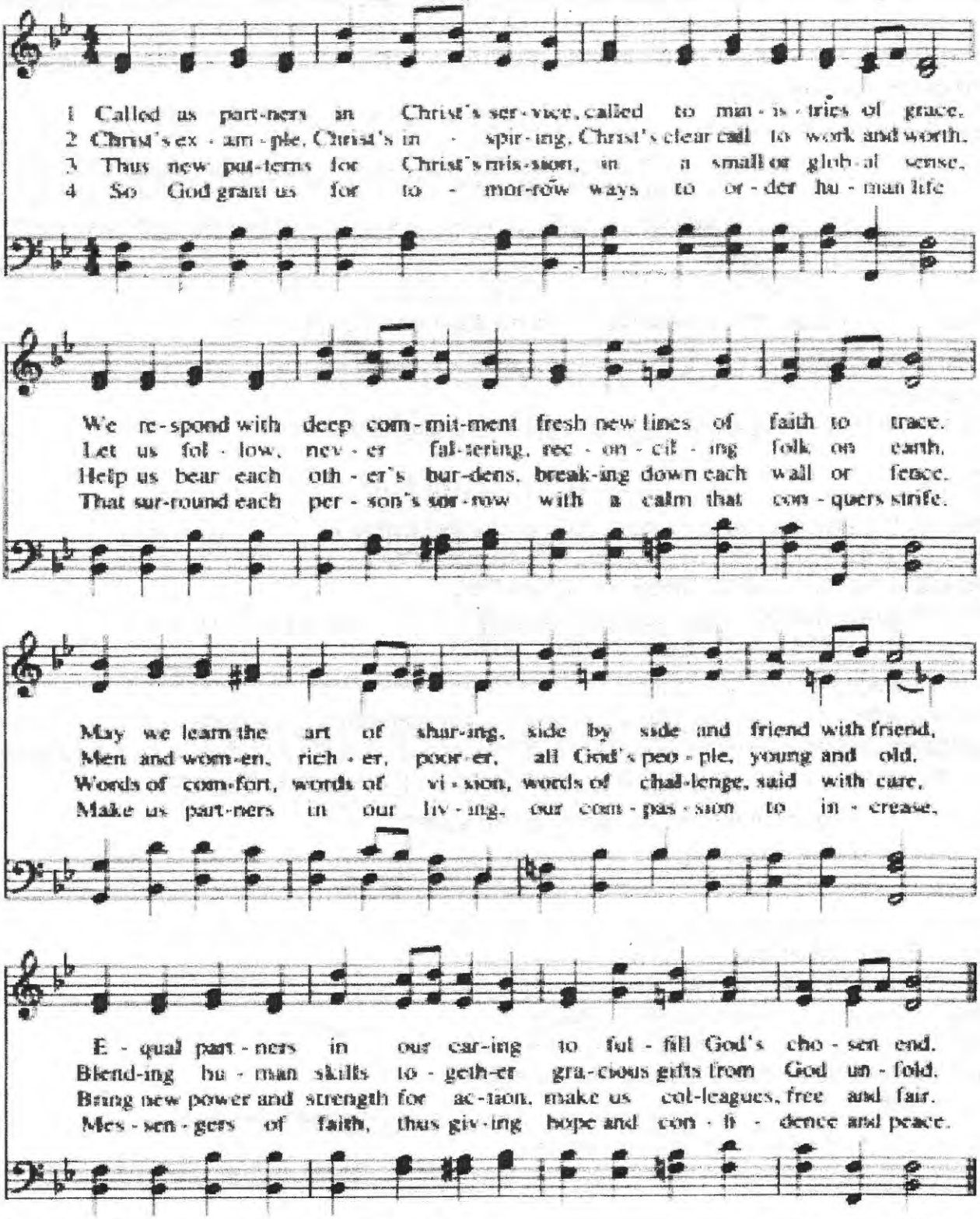
Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers." (Response after each Prayer request)

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer — Jeff Erno

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981 *John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Acts 2:14, 22*



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D
John Zundel, 1855
For another tune, see 85, 368

The Lord's Prayer: (use words most comfortable for you) Janet Caporale, Liturgis

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: Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Judges 4:1-9, 14-22 — Pages 220 & 221 Old Testament
Esther 1:12-17 — Page 444 Old Testament
Luke 1:24-45 — Pages 56 & 57 New Testament

Sermon: "Women: Our Spiritual Leaders" Jeff Erno

***Hymn: "God of the Women"** (to the tune Be Thou My Vision) Page 4

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 Ernc

God of mystery and miracles, bless the gifts and lives we offer to you today with your miraculous abundance and your mysterious guidance. Transform these gifts and lives to be instruments of your love, justice and mercy, that they might bring your realm to earth. Amen

***Hymn: "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"** Page 5

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction: Jeff Erno

One: You know what time it is.
Many: It's time to get to work.
One: It's time to follow Christ.
Many: It's time to go where God leads.
One: It's time to offer ourselves.
Many: And time to bring love to the world.
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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God of the Women (tune Be Thou My Vision)

Carolyn Gillette

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.

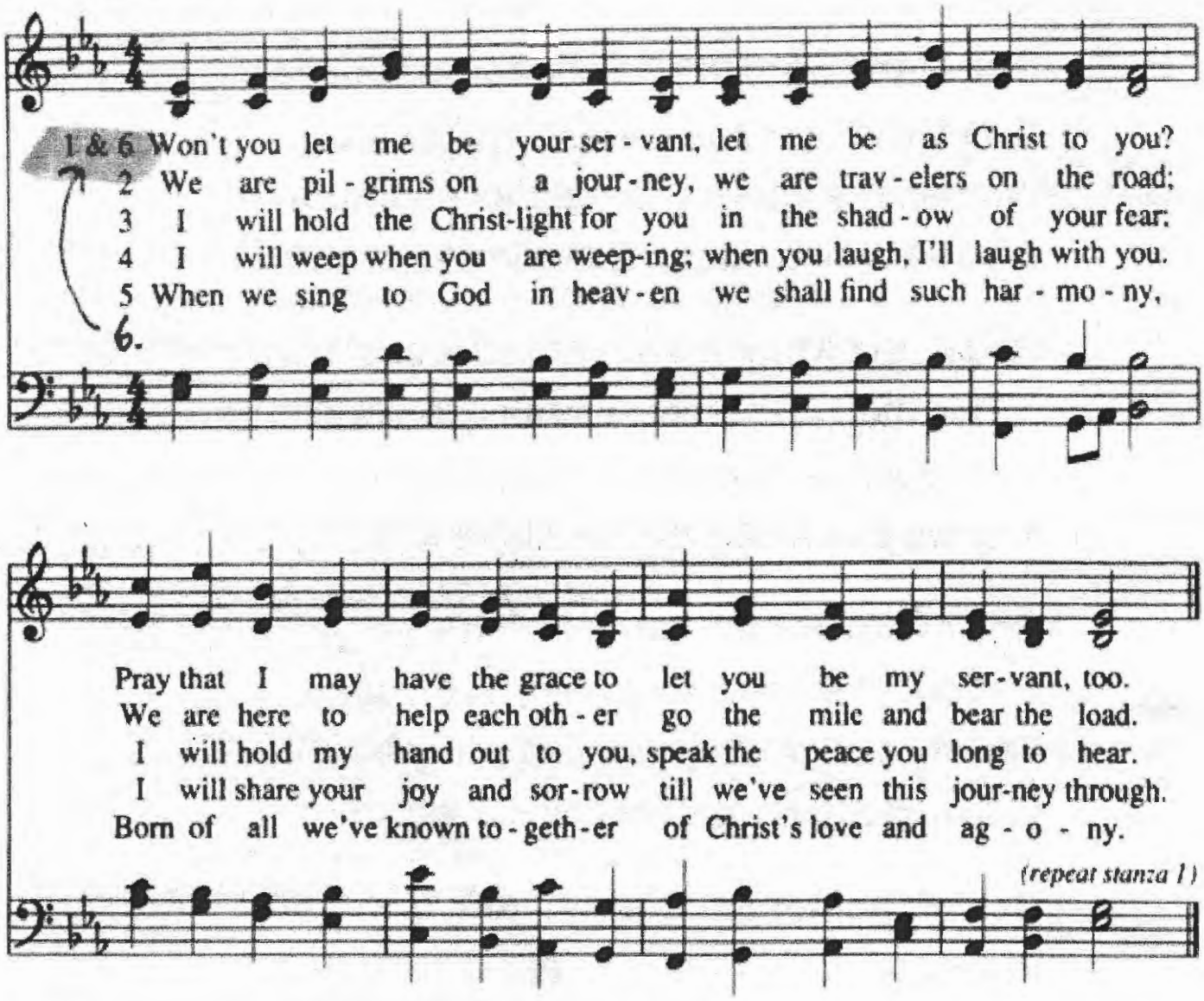
God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? 539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt. *Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29*



Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno
Liturgist: Janet Caporale
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
6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz" LGBTQ+ Support Group

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of November:

Birthdays
November 6: Billie Ollie-Ray
November 7: Susanne Waldrep
November 29: Dan Plummer

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

Sunday, November 15
1:30 p.m. Craft Capades
Friday, November 20
7:00 p.m. Transgender Day of Remembrance Service
Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving
Saturday, December 5
9-10:30 a.m. Breakfast with the Grinch
1:00 p.m. Parade
Tuesday, December 15
7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas

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 November 8 was $1,672. 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.**

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."

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