IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

November 22, 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 "Give Thanks to God" — Immanuel Choir

Children Message — Dave Nofferrt

***Call to Worship** — Marsha Chapman, Liturgist

One: Enter God's gates with gladness,
Many: And God's courts with praise.
One: Rejoice as God's people,
Many: And rest as sheep in God's pasture.
One: Serve God with joyful hearts,
Many: And worship God with justice and mercy.

Invocation — Jeff Erno

Glorious God, enlighten our eyes to our hope in Christ. Help us claim the richness of our glorious inheritance in Christ, our shepherd. Reveal to us your ways, and guide us on right paths, that we might bring the light of your love to a world shrouded in shadow. Bless this church with unity and strength that we may be Christ for the world. For our shepherd rescues the perishing and reclaims the lost and scattered through those who follow as his sheep. Amen.

***Hymn: "Come, O Thankful People, Come"** — Page 2

Words of Assurance — Jeff Erno

There is immeasurable greatness in the power of God for those who believe. There is unquenchable fire in the hearts of believers for those who have tasted God's hope. In the name of Christ Jesus, we are offered fullness of life.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns — Janet Caporale, Liturgist

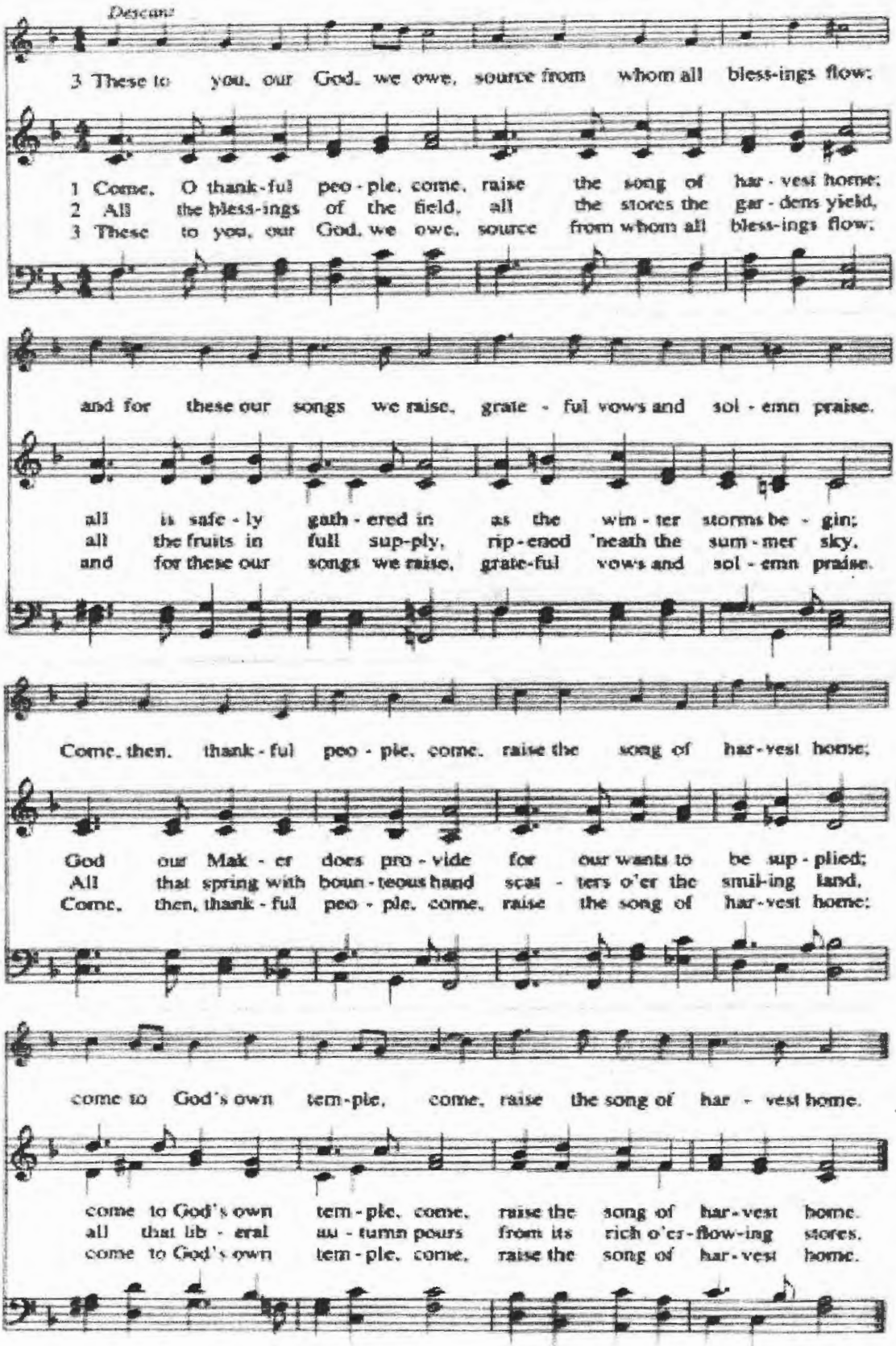
Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers." (Response after each Prayer request)

Silent Meditation

422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772, alt.
St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld, alt.



Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 777.7.D.
George J. Elvey, 1816
Descant H. A. Chambers, 1931

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

Pastoral Prayer Jeff Erno

The Lord's Prayer: (use words most comfortable for you) Marsha Chapman, 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: Marsha Chapman, Liturgist

Psalm 100	Page 552 Old Testament
Ephesians 1:15-23	Page 192 New Testament
Luke 17:11-19	Page 80 New Testament

Sermon: "Paying Forward Our Gratitude" Jeff Erno

***Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God "** 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 Erno

Gentle Shepherd, may the gifts we bring this day be nourishment for a hungry world, clothing, clothing and shelter for those in need, and compassion for those who are hurting. Bless these offerings, that they may help those in need. With gratitude, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth"** Page 5

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction: Jeff Erno

One: Leave this place with thankful hearts
Many: We will make a joyful noise to our God.
One: Bring shouts and laughter to the world.
Many: We will sparkle with eyes enlightened.
One: Proclaim the tender mercies of our God.
Many: We will share the good news with all.
ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve**

419 Nun danket alle Gott
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20–24; 39:35; Ps. 67 — *Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.*

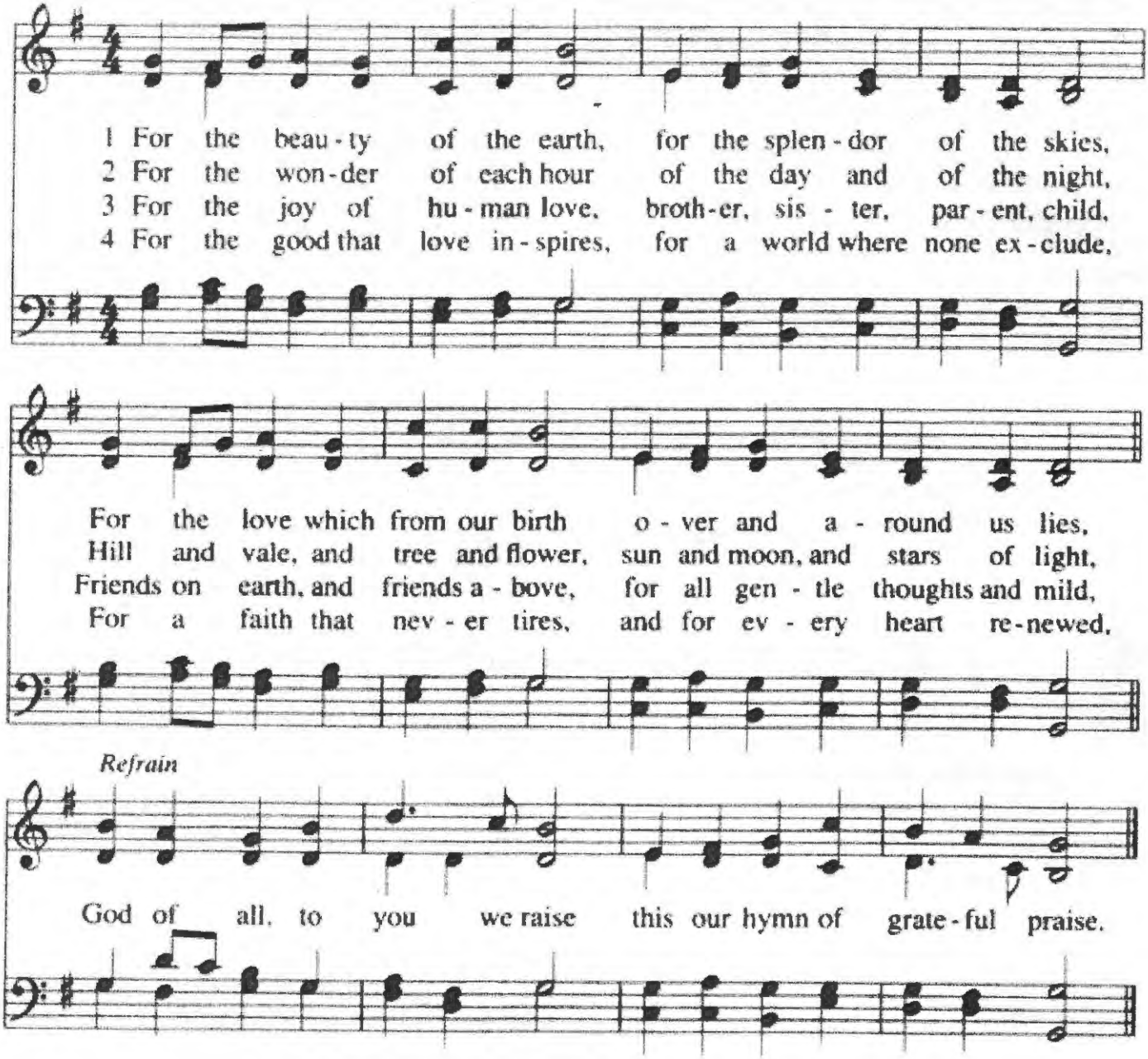


For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
Johann Crüger, 1647
Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

28 For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1–3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993



Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today
Sermon: Jeff Erno
Liturgist: Marsha Chapman & Janet Caporale
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
6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz" LGBTQ+ Support Group

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

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

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 15 was $1,092. 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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