IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371
www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610
November 29, 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 "Will We Know him When He Comes" — Immanuel Choir

Children Message — Dave Noffert

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

One: Let us shout for joy and break out in song!
Many: Yet, even in the silence, God hears our praise
One: In the mornings and evenings
Many: We praise God's name in jubilant song and quit prayer
One: Our thankfulness can never outweigh God's abundance.
Many: Let us give thanks for all God has given. Praise the Lord!

Invocation — Jeff Erno

Eternal One, we praise you for the lavish love you provide us. Love experienced through the abundance of the earth, meets our every need. As we gather this morning in worship, hear the thanks in our hearts and on our lips. We praise your almighty name. Amen.

***Hymn: "All Hail the power of Jesus' Name"** Page 2

Words of Assurance — Jeff Erno

Bountiful blessings come in many different ways. From the abundance of life-giving nutrients and water, to places to rest our heads, God provides out of love for God's creation. May we respond with abundant thanks.

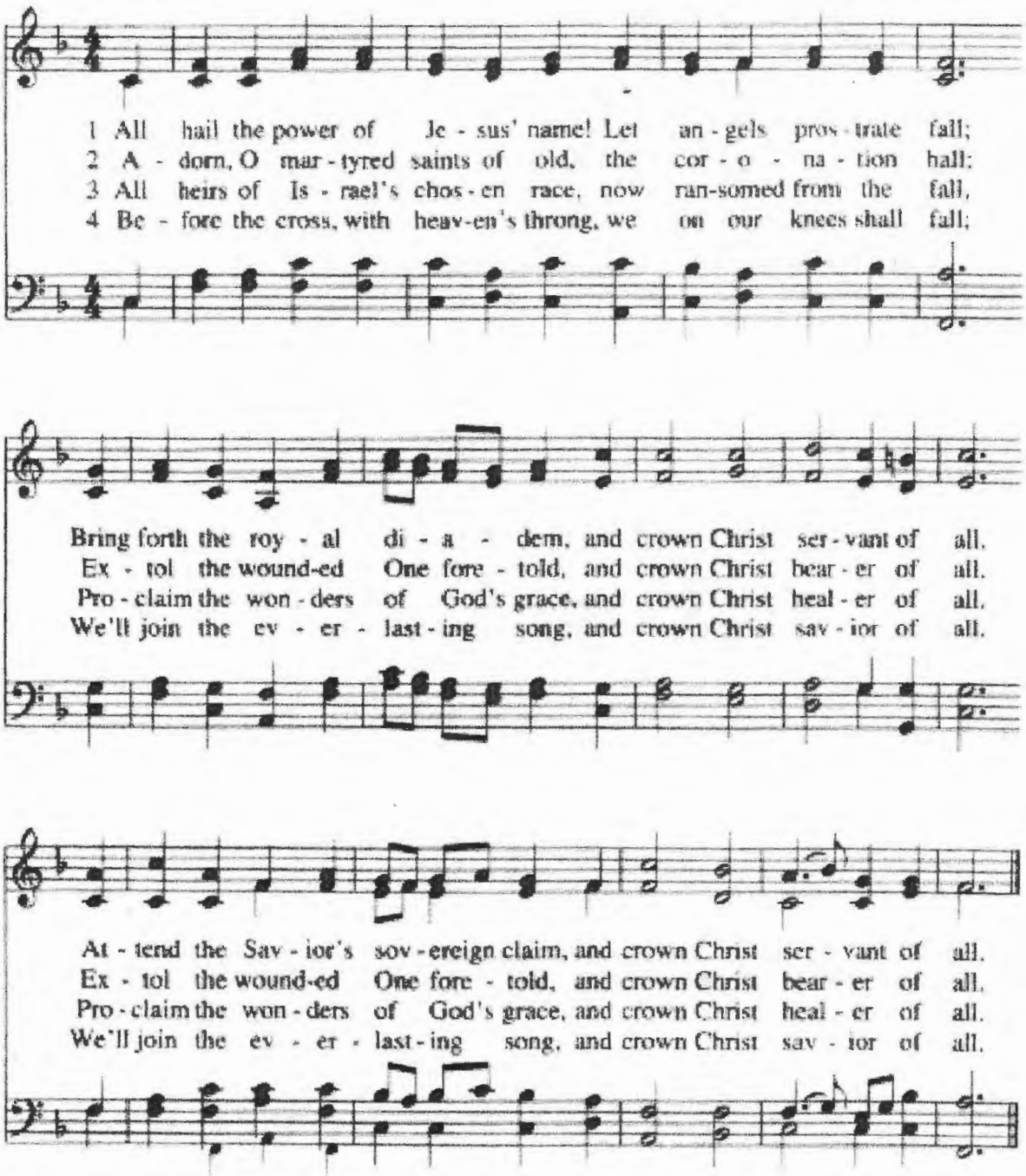
The Congregation Prays
Sharing of Joys and Concerns — Janet Caporale, Liturgist
Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers." (Response after each Prayer request)
Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer — Jeff Erno

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name 304

St. 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; alt
St. 4, John Rippon, 1787; alt.

Rev. 19; 5:9; Phil. 2:9–11



Edward Perronet, long a worker for English Methodism, later became a Congregational minister near Canterbury. John Rippon, an English Baptist minister, wrote more than 1,000 hymns. The tune is by Oliver Holden, an early American carpenter, legislator, musician, and hymnal editor.

Tune: CORONATION C.M.
Oliver Holden, 1793

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

Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Page 165 Old Testament
2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Pages 183 & 184 New Testament
Matthew 25:31-46	Page 29 New Testament

Sermon: "Reaping the Blessing We've Sown" Jeff Erno

***Hymn:** **"You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim "** 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

As you have given to us, may we now return to you. Bless these gifts, that they be used to share your gift with our neighbors, far and near. Amen.

***Hymn:** **"Here I Am, Lord"** Page 5

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction: Jeff Erno

As you leave this place, may your service to the community be blessed through your caring, sharing and love.

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

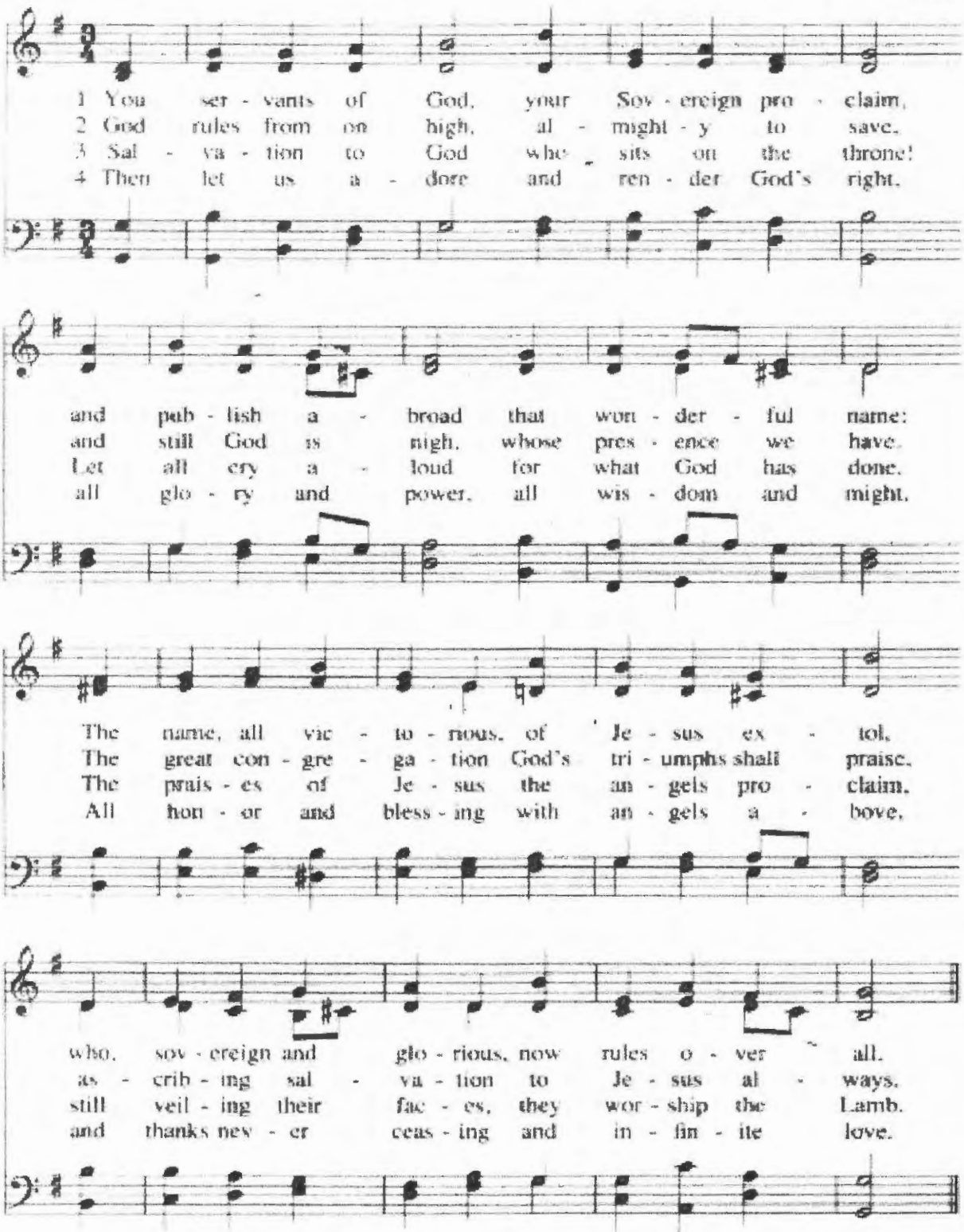
Grace for fellowship hour Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve***\

305 You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

Rev. 19:11-13 — Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

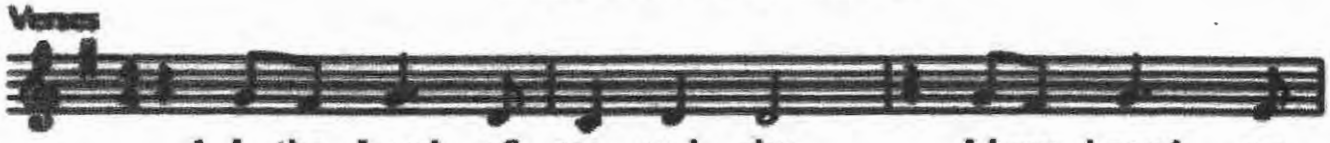


Written at a time of anti-Methodist sentiment, this hymn was included in Charles Wesley's Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution. The tune is attributed to William Croft, composer of England's Chapel Royal and organist at Westminster Abbey.

Tune: HANOVER 10.10.11.11.
Attrib. to William Croft, 1708

Here I Am, Lord

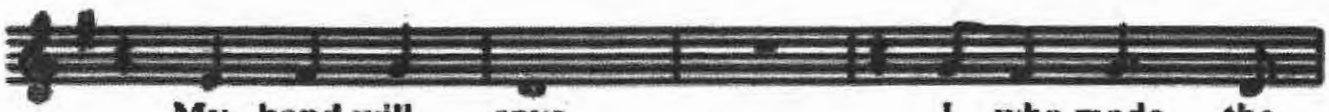
Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky. I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



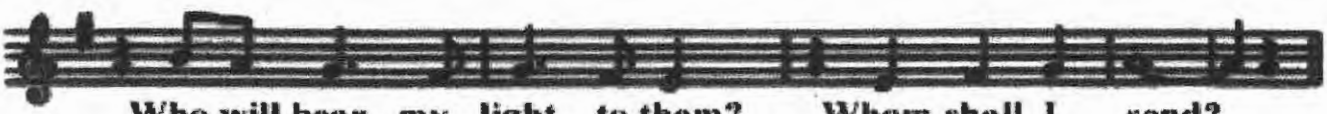
peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain I have wept for love of them
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I who made the
They turn a - way. I will break their
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
will pro -vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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

Sunday, November 29
Hanging of the Greens after Service
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
Thursday, December 24
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Church office closed
Thursday, December 31
New Year's Eve.
Friday, January 1
Happy New Year!

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 22 was $1,331. 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.**

A reflection from Still Speaking Writers' Group (Richard L. Floyd)

Christmas gift giving should be a simple matter, but often isn't. What gift to give? What gift will bring the person joy? How much should I spend?

Then there are a whole series of social pitfalls. What if I give a gift to someone and she doesn't give one to me? What if she gives one to me, and I don't give one to her? What if we give each other gifts, but she spends more than I do? What if she doesn't like the gift I give her?

There are other social pressures around gift giving. I recall my parents giving me a pep talk before the relatives showed up: "Make sure you say thank you and be grateful for whatever gift you are given." I may have overdone it to the point of transparent hypocrisy, especially if the gift was socks.

But the meaning of Christmas is not wrapped up in our gifts, neither the ones we give nor the ones we receive. The meaning of Christmas is about a gift God gives us, the gift of God's own Self and God's love in the child born in Bethlehem.

This gift is not one we expected or wanted, but it is the one gift we need. We can't buy it. We don't deserve it. We can't return an equal gift. This gift comes with no strings attached!

This gift changes things wherever it is received: changes people, communities, even changes the world. Christmas celebrates not merely a gift, but THE gift, the wondrous gift by which all other gifts are measured and found wanting.

Prayer

Holy God, we thank you for the wondrous gift you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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