IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371
www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610
November 8, 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 "Everything Within Me Worships You" — Immanuel Choir

Children Message — Dave Noffert

***Call to Worship** — Dave Noffert, Liturgist

One: The God of our ancestors has called us here
Many: We are witnesses
One: The wisdom of the ages has called us here
Many: We are witnesses
One: The choice to follow God has called us here
Many: We are witnesses
One: The Lord of life has called us here.
Many: We are witnesses

Invocation — Jeff Erno

Promise of the ages, we come to you this day to choose the ways of life. Grant us patience in our waiting, as we watch for signs of your coming kingdom. We will teach our children your ways and pass on the lessons of life and death we have learned. Amen

***Hymn: "Arise! Your Light Has Come"** — Page 2

Words of Assurance — Jeff Erno

We worship a God of mercy and love. Choose the Lord each day you will live.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns — Dave Noffert, Liturgist

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

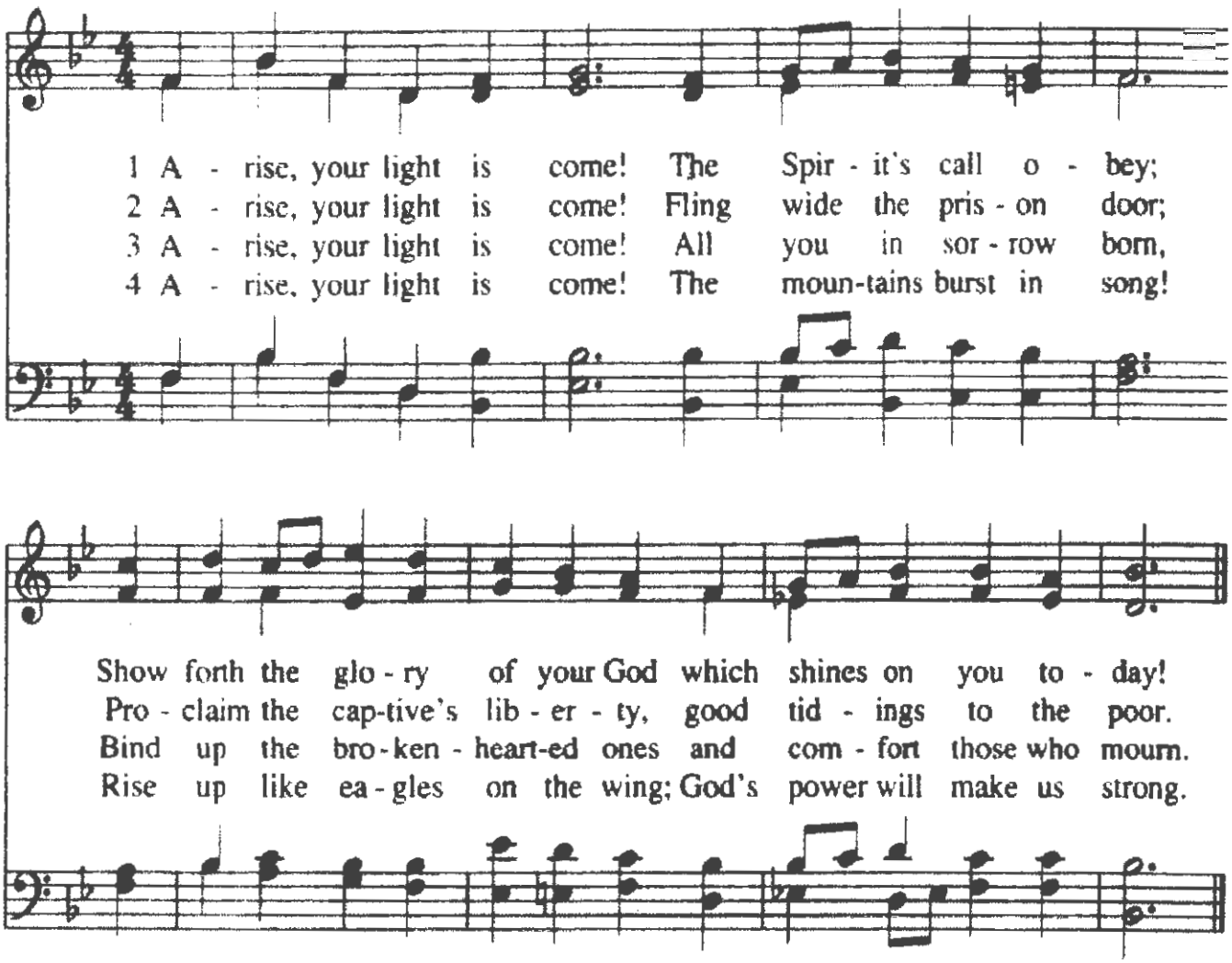
Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer — Jeff Erno

164 Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973



This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. *Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection,* Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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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: Dave Noffert, Liturgist

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Pages 215 & 216 Old Testament
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Pages 204 & 205 New Testament
Matthew 25:1-13 Page 28 New Testament

Sermon: "Are We, the Bride, Ready to Meet Our Bridegroom?" Jeff Erno

***Hymn: "I Want to Be Ready"** Page 4

STATEMENT FAITH back of red hymnal

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

We dedicate these gifts to you, Eternal One, as symbols of our choice to follow you. Receive these gifts of love as celebrations of your presence in our lives. Hold us to our promises, that we might share your blessings and wisdom with the world. Amen.

***Hymn: "O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"** Page 5

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction: Jeff Erno

One: Choose God this day, and keep your lamps lit.
Many: We go with hearts ablaze with God's love.
One: Choose God this day, and shine with God's light
Many: We go with lives kindled with the call to serve.
One: Choose God this day and enter into fullness of life.
Many: We go to embrace the life we have received.
ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour Jeff Erno

*Postlude

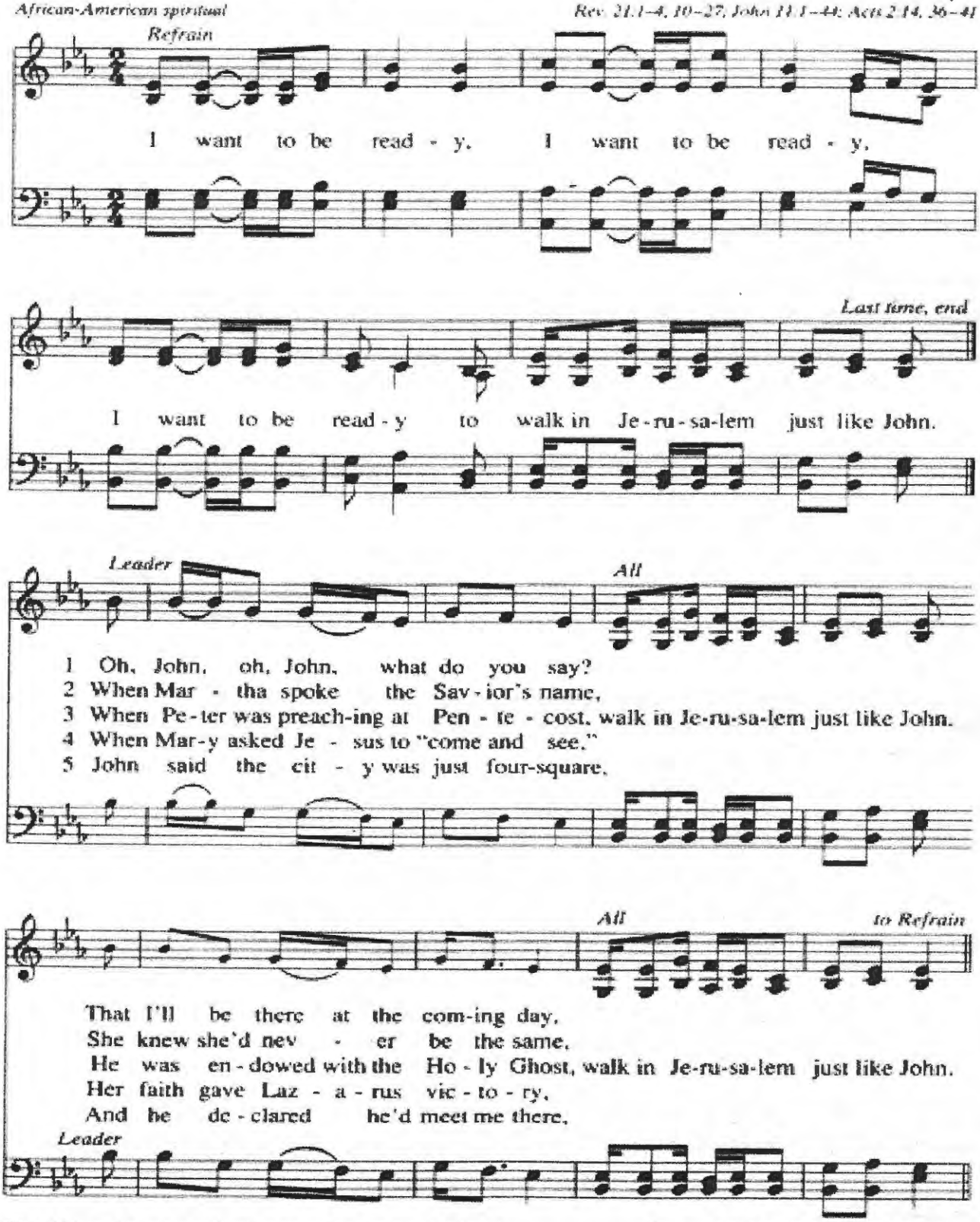
*We scatter to serve***

I Want to Be Ready

616

African-American spiritual

Rev. 21:1–4, 10–27; John 11:1–44; Acts 2:14, 36–41



This African-American spiritual is one of a small number based not on the Hebrew Scriptures but the New Testament, specifically the book of Revelation. Stanzas two and four are additions to the traditional text and include some of the female followers of Jesus.

Tune: I WANT TO BE READY Irr.
African-American spiritual
Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

503 O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

Washington Gladden, 1879; alt.



Washington Gladden was a Congregational minister, distinguished preacher and lecturer, and author of over thirty works. Gladden wrote extensively on civic and social affairs of his day. This hymn was penned in 1879 and published in his periodical, The Sunday Afternoon.

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

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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
6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz" LGBTQ+ Support Group

Monday, November 9
7:00 a.m. Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 10
2-4 p.m. Cleaning Craft room & Classrooms
Saturday, November 14
9:00 a.m. Alternative Fall Clean-up (only if November 7 fails)
Sunday, November 15
1:30 p.m. Craft Capades
Friday, November 20
7:00 p.m. Transgender Day of Remembrance Service

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 October 25 was $1,915 and November 1 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.
- **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.**

November 8, 2026 **Matthew 25:1-13** **Tending God's Light**

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us, and it is our joy as well as our responsibility as followers of Christ to tend to that light so that it can shine brightly in service of God and the world.

As this year's stewardship materials remind us, because of YOU and the light you shine in the world, our church changes lives. The materials claim, "It is a statement both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so.

...We can be bold because we know it's true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you.

Our theme, Because of YOU, our church changes lives, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity to the church increases the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives - even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is yours!"

God has given you a light to tend. How will you tend that light today and into the year to come? The choice to let your light shine is as simple as it is bold. Let it shine!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUL0110 **8 1/2" x 14 UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE**
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