



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371
www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610
February 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 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Immanuel Choir

***Call to Worship**

One: Praise the Lord!

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Lord!

One: Here we remember the light of God that shines in our lives.

Many: Here we allow God's light to shine through us.

One: Let us worship our radiant God.

Many: Praise the Lord! Happy are we who delight in the Lord!

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and praise you this day. For this we are grateful! As we worship today, may our minds be opened to learn your wisdom. May our eyes be opened to places that need healing. May our hands be opened to do your good work. May our hearts be opened to your Holy Spirit, who gifts us and guides us. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"**

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Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

When we call out to God, God is there to hear us. Know that your prayers have been heard. Now, receive the grace of God and live in God's abundant mercy.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

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

Silent Meditation

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt.

Matt. 11:28-30; John 4:7-15, 8:12

 2 I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad,
 3 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give
 4 I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream;
 The music features eighth-note patterns and a steady bass line."/>

 And there I found a rest-ing place, where Je-sus made me glad!
 The liv-ing wa-ter, thirst-y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
 My thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I am re-deemed.
 The music features eighth-note patterns and a steady bass line."/>

5 I heard the voice of Je-sus say,
 "I am this lost world's Light,
 Look un-to me; your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright."

6 I looked to Je-sus, and I found
 my guid-ing Star, my Sun;
 And in that light of life I'll go
 till trav-eling days are done.

Horatius Bonar was one of the founders of the Free Church of Scotland. A man of wide scholarship and great devotion to his ministry, he wrote nearly one book a year, as well as some 600 hymns.

Tune: EVAN C.M.
William H. Havergal, 1847
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1850
 Alternate tune: KINGSFOLD
(Pair stanzas 1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

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:

Psalm 112

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

Matthew 5:13-16

Page 563 Old Testament

John 8:12-20

Page 4 New Testament

Page 101 New Testament

Sermon: "Reflecting the Light of Jesus"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "O, Morning Star, How Clear and Bright"

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STATEMENT FAITH

Stewardship Message

back of red hymnal

Announcements

(Be sure to read about up-coming events in the back of the bulletin.)

Offering: Offertory "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Insert

*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

Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways you bless our lives and for the gifts you give us. May these gifts help heal and restore our community, so that all will flourish like a well-watered garden. Amen.

*Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"

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*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

One: May the love of God bring forth healing and restoration all of your days.

Jeff Erno

Many: The light of Christ will guide our way.

One: May the Holy Spirit empower you.

Many: We are empowered to do the good work of God.

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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"LIFE EVERY VOICE AND SING"

lyrics for offertory

Congregation is encouraged to lift their voices and SING

Lift every voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound, loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
 felt in the days when hope unborn died.

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
 come to the place for which our fathers sighed.

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
 Out from the gloomy past 'til now we stand at last
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
 Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
 keep us forever in the path we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand
 true to our God, true to our native land.

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

Isa. 60:19-20; Rom. 15:7-13

Philipp Nicolai, 1598
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

1 O Morn-ing Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in
 2 Come heaven-ly Bright-ness, Light di-vine, ahd deep with - in my

truth and light! My Sov-ereign meek and low - ly! O Root of Jes - se,
 heart now shine, there make your - self an al - tar! Fill me with joy and

Prom-ised One, my God and Rul - er, you have won my heart to serve you
 strength to be your mem-ber, joined e - ter - nal - ly in love that can - not

sole - ly! You are ho - ly, great and glo - rious, all - vic - to - rious,
 fal - ter; Long-ing for you does pos - sess me; turn and bless me;

Rich in bless - ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.
 Here in sad - ness eye and heart long for your glad - ness.

This German chorale by Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai became so popular that its tune was chimed by church bells and its words engraved on posters. It has been called "the anthem of Germany."

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEBUCHTET 8.8.7.8.8.7.4.8.4.8.

Philipp Nicolai, 1598
Harm. J. S. Bach, c. 1731

"This Little Light" continued:

- 2 Ev-ery-where I go . . .
- 3 All--through the night . . .

"This Joy I Have" continued:

- 2 This love I have . . .
- 3 This hope I have . . .
- 4 This faith I have . . .
- 5 This peace I have . . .

This Little Light of Mine

African-American spiritual

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Matt. 5:14-16

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,
this lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,
This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it
shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine.)

- 2 Ev-ery-where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
- 3 All--through the night, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .

This was the favorite song of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, who could sing as well as she could give powerful speeches. During that era this spiritual was sometimes modified and sung as "This little light of freedom."

Tune: LATTIMER Int.
African-American spiritual
Adapt. William Farley Smith, 1987

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno
Liturgist: Dave Noffert
Children's Message: Pastor Liz Wilson
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

Thursday, February 12

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 19

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Thursday, February 26

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of February:

Birthdays

February 1: Ruth Douglas

February 2: Eric Schuette

February 5: Alex VanHaren

February 6: Danner Wilson

February 7: Willie Ray

February 9: Jeff Erno

February 15: Muriel Beltz

February 16: Tammy Martin

February 23: Ken Martin

February 27: David Ollie Ray

Anniversaries

February 7: Tammy & Ken Martin

- 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 February 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 old socks & flexible plastic Kroger packaging for recycling. Call Peggy with questions.
- 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.
- Please be sure to check the green mailboxes for mail addressed to you. Also, check the yellow wire shelf next to the drinking fountain for anything belonging you. It all wants to go home.
- 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

Restoring Beauty

There's a white-washed stone and thatched roof cottage in Ireland that sits on a cliff. From every weather-beaten shuttered window there is a view of the sea that has inspired poets and composers for centuries. Wildflowers dance amid the grassy bluffs where a passing sheep or two can be found perfecting the storybook setting.

I stumbled upon this cottage during one of my bouts with writer's block. I had a pressing deadline, yet no inspiration. So, I decided to Google "Irish cottages for sale." Sadly, this dream cottage was not on the market. It was a vacation rental.

I was intrigued, but not with the possible dates in which to book a much-needed getaway. There on the website was the history of the cottage and how its owners restored the structure that had fallen not only into disrepair but had become what looked like just a pile of rocks.

Each before and after picture had me in awe. The restoration project was a massive undertaking. Yet what impressed me was not the amount of time, money and energy they put into bringing this ancient cottage back to life. What impressed me was that they had the eyes to see the beauty lurking in the rubble.

I am grateful that there are people who can see the possibilities in this world when others can't. I often show my husband, with great excitement, dilapidated old homes that are for sale. I begin pointing to the amazing stone foundation. I trace with my finger on the realtor's picture the faint outline of a chimney to what would have been a huge open hearth used for cooking. He, though, can't see what I see. He still sees just a pile of wood that would cost many dollars to rebuild.

But what would this world look like if we weren't blind to the "what can be's"? This question goes beyond Irish cottages, and even beyond the New England clapboard saltboxes I constantly dream about restoring.

I am talking about the "what can be's" that Jesus sees amid the broken beams, crumbling foundations and caved roofs of our lives. For just when we think rebuilding our life is impossible, Jesus not only sees that restoration is possible. Jesus makes it happen.

Many years ago, Jesus urged God's children to let their lights shine. Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. Shine — and shine brightly. Shine amid the rubble and ruin. Shine so that the God beauty can be seen. Shine to reveal that there is always hope. Shine, because the God truth is this: A pile of stone can indeed become a beautiful cottage once again.

Loving God, forgive us when we start believing that restoration work is just too hard and costly. Open our eyes to see what You see — that all things are possible with You. Come into our lives this day and restore all that has crumbled. Restore, rebuild, reimagine — do what it takes for us to begin to shine once again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

