



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

March 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

Choir Anthem "The Beatitudes"

Children's Message

*Call to Worship

One: Come into the light of God.

Many: Christ's brightness will guide our ways.

One: Come into the wisdom of God.

Many: The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.

One: Come into the praise of God.

Many: Worship opens new doors in our hearts.

Invocation

Shepherd of love, guide our steps, open the eyes of our hearts, and fling wide the doors of our minds to perceive as you perceive. Open our lives to love as you love. Open our world to become the world you envision for your creation. In the light of your love, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

Words of Assurance

Surely goodness and faithful love follow us all the days of our lives. For these gifts are already ours through the grace and power of Christ Jesus.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

Immanuel Choir

Pastor Liz Wilson

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

Jeff Erno

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Jeff Erno

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

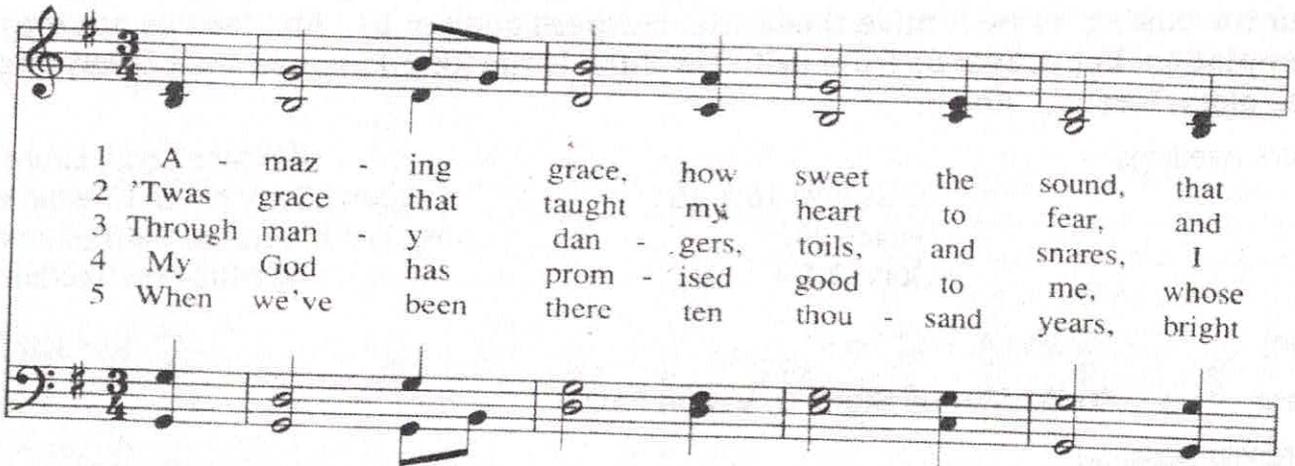
Jeff Erno

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

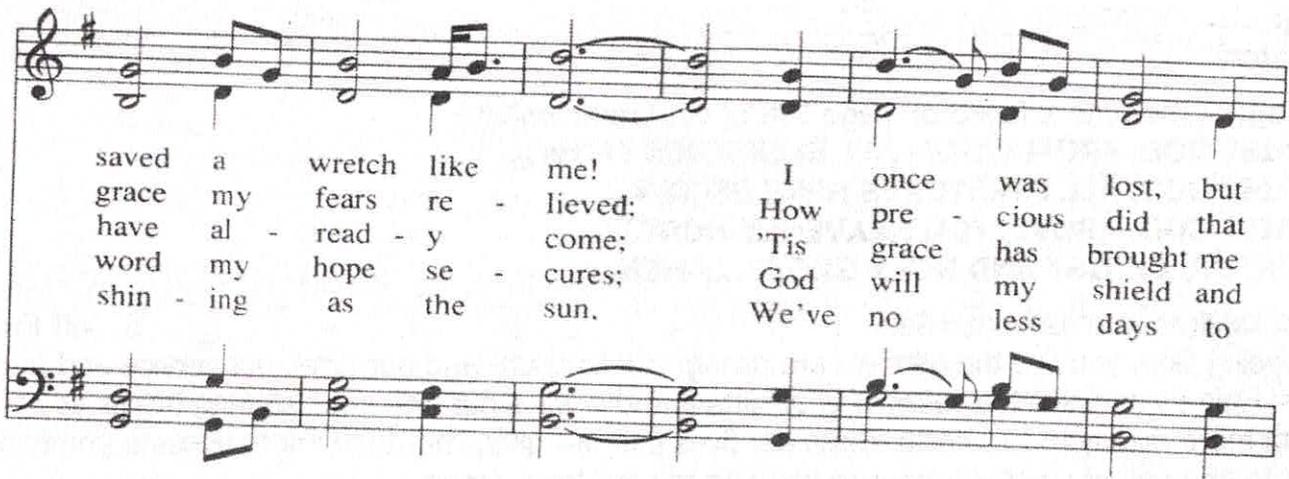
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St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

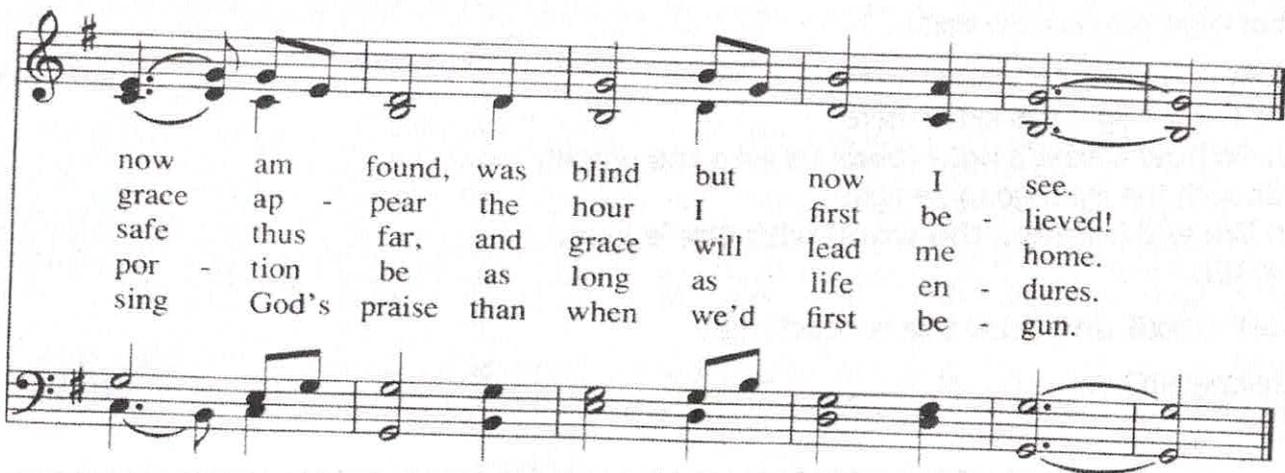
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun. We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

The Lord's Prayer: (use words most comfortable for you)

Roxanne Todd, 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:

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
John 9:1-4

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist
Pages 259 & 260 Old Testament
King James Version, Old Testament
Page 102 New Testament

Sermon: "Seeing As God Sees"

Jeff Erno

***Hymn: "O Wondrous Sight O, Vision Fair"**

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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

All-seeing God, you see the gifts we are giving; our treasure and our time, our service and our lives. Help us perceive the value of your gifts and the ways our generous sharing brings your realm more closely to this earth. Bless our lives and our gifts, that they might become points of light to bring all of creation closer to you and to your love. Amen.

***Hymn: "God's Eye Is on the Sparrow"**

Insert front & back

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: As Christ's light has led us here

Many: So now Christ's light leads us into the world.

One: Go with the light, go to be light.

Many: We will brighten the world with God's love.

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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O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

Luke 9:28-36; Matt. 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-7

Latin, "Sarum Breviary," 1495
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair of glo - ry
 2 From age to age the tale de - clare, how with the
 3 The law and proph - ets there have place, two cho - sen
 4 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to
 5 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

that the church shall share, Which Christ ap - on the
 three dis - ci - ples there, Where Mo - ses and E -
 wit - ness - es of grace; The voice of God out
 man - i - fest to day What glo - ry shall be
 vi - sion's mys - ter - y, For which in joy - ful

moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun, Christ glows!
 li - jah meet, they with the Christ God's fu - ture greet.
 from the cloud pro - claims the Hu - man One a - loud,
 theirs be - yond, who live with - in God's lov - ing bond,
 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

This tune was composed in honor of the defeat of France at Agincourt by England under Henry V. The words, "Deo gratias . . ." were added in honor of the English king's wish that the glory for the victory be given to God.

Tune: DEO GRATIAS L.M.
 "The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415
 For other harmonizations, see 209, 250

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7

Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.

Stanzas, in unison

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and
 And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and
 When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por- tion? My
 fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but
 dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.

Tune: SPARROW Irr.
 Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Refrain, in harmony

know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm
 know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm
 know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap-py, I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free, God's
 I'm hap-py, I'm free,

eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Roxanne Todd

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

9:30 a.m. Sunday Book Study

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

Sunday, March 15

Newsletter deadline

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

- 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 March 1 was \$1,145. 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

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of March:

Birthdays

March 5: Tyler Sellers

March 11: Alex Hanft

Anniversaries

March 10: Roxanne & Mike Todd

March 21: Margi & Ed Sellers

Restored

One of the most haunting questions in John comes when after Jesus restores the sight of a man born blind and the Pharisees begin asking, “Surely, we are not blind?”

From the very beginning of this healing story, there’s much debate and misinformed assumptions from the community, including Jesus’ disciples, as all wonder whose sin was responsible for the man’s affliction: His own or his parents? Curses and blessings pave much of the Old Testament theological road, so it was popular belief that when bad things happened it was because of something you or a family member did or didn’t do.

Jesus announces, though, the blindness was no one’s sin, and with a little divine spit rubbed onto the man’s eyes, Jesus heals him. The man returns from washing his eyes in the Pool of Siloam, which means “sent,” as Jesus instructed him to do. He returns with eyes that see everything vividly, even the truth of who Jesus is — the Holy One of God.

Skepticism prevails, though, and the Pharisees relentlessly question the man. It is then that Jesus makes the comment that he came into the world so that those who do not see may see, and those who do may become blind. He said it loud enough for the educated religious elite to hear. And when they do, they wonder, “Surely, we are not blind?”

Surely, I am not blind. Surely, you are not blind. We can see clearly what is right and what is wrong in the world, correct? Surely, we can see with the restored eyes of the blind man not only the beautiful blues in the sky and the lush greens in the meadows but the power and majesty of Christ among us.

The question of blindness is a haunting one because it reminds us that often we see only what we want to see, and we believe only what we want to believe. Like the Pharisees, none of us are free from misinformed assumptions and inherited prejudices and stymying skepticism.

How then do we gain our spiritual sight? I suppose it starts by allowing this question to haunt us. For only when we begin to ask if we ourselves are blind will we begin to admit that we need corrective spiritual lenses.

All-knowing and all-seeing God, heal us from our own blindness that keeps us from seeing the world with the eyes of Jesus. May this day we regain our spiritual sight to see those who are hungry, who hurt, and who are lonely. 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.)

