



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

April 26, 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 "Down to the River to Pray"

Children Message

***Call to Worship**

One: Do you need a guide?

Many: The Lord is our shepherd.

One: Do you need a path to new life?

Many: The Lord is our gate.

One: Do you need rest?

Many: The Lord restores our souls.

One: Come, let us worship.

Invocation

Loving Shepherd, you call us as your own. When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, you rescue us from peril. Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen

***Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

Words of Assurance

The Good Shepherd anoints our heads with oil, nourishes us with living waters, delivers us from evil, and watches over us day and night. Because of our Shepherd, we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Jeff Erno

Immanuel Choir

Pastor Liz Wilson

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Jeff Erno

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Jeff Erno

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)

John 10:1-29

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Lailana (1807-1886)

1 ; Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;
1 Ie - su no ke Ka - hu - hi - pa, Ka - hu - hi - pa ma'i-ka'i e,
2. We are yours, in love be - friend us, 'be the guard-ian of our way;
3. Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;

in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre - pare.
Ei - a ma - kou ka 'o - ha - na ke ho'o-lo - he a ha - hai:
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai,
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Lailana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY K.7.R.7.D.
William B. Bradbury, 1859

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

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:

Psalm 23

John 10:1-11, 27-30

1 Peter 2:19-25

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

King James Version

Pages 103 & 104 New Testament

Pages 233 & 234 New Testament

Sermon:

"Jesus Our Good Shepherd"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn:

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

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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

Shepherd of our souls, we thank you for the love that flows through our lives. May this love flow through these gifts, that no one may be in need. Work through this offering and through our very lives, that your community of love may be established here on earth for all the sheep of your fold. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: **"O, Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder"**

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*The Light of Christ goes into the world

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

Phil. 4:6-7

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D,
 Charles C. Converse, 1868

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

Carl Boberg, 1885

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

1 O might-y God, when I sur-vey in won-der the world that
 2 When your voice speaks in rolls of thun-der peal-ing, your light-ning
 3 The Bi-ble tells the sto-ry of your bless-ing so free-ly
 4 And when, at last, the clouds of doubt dis-pers-ing, you will re-

formed when once the word you said, The strands of life all wo-ven close to-
 pow-er bursts in bright sur-prise; When cool-ing rain, your gen-tle love re-
 shed up-on all hu-man life; Your con-stant mer-cy, ev-ery care ad-
 veal what we but dim-ly see; With trum-pet call, our great re-birth an-

Refrain
 geth-er, the whole cre-a-tion at your ta-ble fed,
 veal-ing, re-flects your prom-ise, arc-ing through the skies, (1-3) My soul cries
 dress-ing, re-liev-ing bur-dened souls from sin and strife.
 nounc-ing, we shall re-join you for e-ter-ni-ty, (4) Then we will

out in songs of praise to you, O might-y God! O might-y God! My soul cries
 sing your praise for-ev-er more, O might-y God! O might-y God! Then we will

out in songs of praise to you, O might-y God! O might-y God!
 sing your praise for-ev-er more, O might-y God! O might-y God!

Carl Boberg, a popular evangelical minister and teacher in Sweden, wrote his poem "O Store Gud" in the summer of 1885. Several years later, he was surprised to hear it sung with this old Swedish melody, with which it has been associated ever since. The first literal English translation by E. Gustav Johnson was published in the United States in 1925. The hymn also became known in Germany and Russia, where the British missionary Stuart K. Hine was inspired to create his English paraphrase known as "How great thou art." This translation and arrangement were created for The New Century

Tune: O STORE GUD

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Swedish folk melody

Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: The Lord is our shepherd.

Many: We shall not want.

One: In pastures green, we rest secure.

Many: By still waters, we rest secure.

One: Go with the blessings of our Shepherd.

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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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Janet Caporale

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

Monday, May 4

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

Monday, May 35

Memorial Day Church office closed

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of April

Birthdays

April 8: Leslie Edwards

April 11: Roxanne Todd

April 27: Richard Hill-Tysick

- 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 April 12 was \$1,520 and April 19 was \$884. 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.
- 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

April 26, 2026

Psalm 23

Powerful Witness

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

With that opening verse, Psalm 23 soars to the top of the greatest psalms of all time chart, becoming words whispered when lonely shadows are our only friends or when a sea of mourners need a blessed balm for broken hearts.

Psalm 23 is our perennial witness of the powerful truth that with the Lord we do not need anything else. But as popular as the psalm is, have you ever stopped to truly understand what the psalmist was saying about this incredible provision of love? For example, what does it mean to have a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies?

Personally, I would not welcome such a dinner party in my life. But understanding ancient Middle Eastern culture helps us see better what God is up to for the host of a meal was not just offering a delectable leg of lamb. The host, through the meal, was offering protection for the guest that was invited. Once a seat was taken at the host's table, no enemy was allowed access to the guest. So that table prepared for us among all our enemies is God saying, "I got you. In the presence of danger, no harm will come to you because you are at my table."

While we are here unpacking familiar verses, let's take a closer look at the Lord anointing our head with oil. Yes, anointing one's head is a symbolic act of consecrating a person chosen by God, and we are all chosen — called — by God to care for one another. But anointing with oil was also a common practice among shepherds for their sheep. The oil would be poured on the sheep's head to act as a barrier against pesky flies. The oil would also act as a soothing balm, helping to heal scratches on the sheep's head from either branches, thorny brush or the occasional head-butting from another sheep.

So, when we hear the Lord anoints our heads, he is not just setting us aside for the holy work of loving our neighbors. He is providing us with a barrier against those proverbial buzzing insects and confrontational head-butts in life, because such annoyances just don't happen to sheep, do they?

Yes, the Lord is our shepherd. With him, we lack nothing. His protection of us is abundant.

Shepherding God, it is a joy and a privilege to be part of your Son's flock. We thank You for the constant care You give us each day. May we never take such love for granted. 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.)

