



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

[www.icucc.org](http://www.icucc.org) • 248-628-1610

April 5, 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.**

**Easter Sunday**

Prelude

\*Bringing in the Light of Christ

(\* denotes those who are able may stand.)

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "The Stone is Rolled Away"

Immanuel Choir

Children's Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

**\*Call to Worship**

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

One: We don't know where to find Jesus

**Many: The days have been dark; the news has been sad.**

One: We don't know what to do with our grief.

**Many: The cross has claimed his life; the tomb has shrouded our hope.**

One: We don't know where to turn for comfort.

**Many: Who has stolen him from us? Why are we alone at the tomb?**

One: We don't know where to look for answers.

**Many: Tears and sorrow blind us in our grief. We don't know where to find Jesus.**

Invocation

Jeff Erno

God of mystery and might, on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with the light of your wondrous love. We come to the tomb expecting death but find life instead. Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life. In the holy awe of Easter morning, may our voices sing out our joy, for Christ, our Lord, has risen today! Amen

**\*Hymn: "On a Hill Far Away"**

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Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

God of mystery and might, on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with the light of your wondrous love. We come to the tomb expecting death but find life instead. Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life. In the holy awe of Easter morning, may our voices sing out our joy, for Christ, our Lord, has risen today! Amen

# On a Hill Far Away

(The Old Rugged Cross)

Heb. 12:2; James 1:12

George Bennard, 1913; alt.

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the  
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a  
 3 In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a  
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its

em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the  
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the  
 won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus  
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear. When God calls me some-day to my

dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.  
 glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.  
 suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.  
 home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

*Refrain*

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my  
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged  
 cross, the

cross, and ex - change it some-day for a crown.  
 old rug - ged cross,

Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS. In.  
 George Bennard, 1913

After serving as an officer in the Salvation Army, George Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the midst of his travels through the Midwest conducting revival services, he was inspired to write this hymn.

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

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

**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 Reading:

John 18:28-19:42

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Pages 112-114 New Testament

Scripture Reading:

Luke 24

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

Pages 90 & 91 New Testament

Sermon:

"The Passion and Victory of Christ"

Jeff Erno

\*Hymn:

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

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**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION** (Led by Pastor Liz Wilson)

Insert

Stewardship Message

Announcements

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

Offering:

Offertory "Worship the King"

\*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

With gratitude and joy, O God, we bring these gifts for your use, even as we offer our very lives into your loving service. May our financial assistance and the ministries of this church bring new life to a hurting world in need of resurrection. May our gifts touch the lost and lonely with the assurance that in your arms, life never ends and love never dies. Amen.

\*Hymn:

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

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\*The Light of Christ goes into the world

# Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

(At the Cross)

Gal. 2:20; 6:14; Phil. 2:2-12; Heb. 12:1-3

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.  
Refrain by Ralph E. Hudson, 1885; alt.

1 A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my Sov - ereign die?  
2 Was it for crimes that I have done, Christ groaned up - on the tree?  
3 Well might the sun in shad - ows hide, and shut its glo - ries in,  
4 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would God de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
A - maz - ing pit - y! Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!  
When Je - sus Christ my Sav - ior died for hu - man crea - tures' sin.  
Here, Christ, I give my - self a - way as all that I can do!

*Refrain*

At the cross, at the cross where I first found the light, and the

bur - den of my heart rolled a - way, It was there by faith all my  
rolled a - way,

fears took flight, and now I am hap - py all the day.

After discharge from the Union army, Ralph Hudson taught music at Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where he founded a publishing company. He wrote the music for this Isaac Watts text and added a familiar camp-meeting chorus as a refrain.

Tune: HUDSON C.M. with refrain  
Ralph E. Hudson, 1885  
Alternate setting: MARTYRDOM

# Holy Communion:

## WELCOME

We invite all who worship with us to partake of Holy Communion. As Christ welcomed all, we too welcome all, regardless of church membership or affiliation, regardless of where all are in life's journey.

## INVITATION

Come freely, for this table of grace is here for all. Come confidently, for this table of love offers blessings beyond our wildest dreams. Come humbly, for this table is set by Christ, who humbled himself to both live and die in his great love for us.

## EASTER PRAYER OF EXHALTATION

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love: We praise you for Jesus Christ, who reminds us that even in fear-filled days, cloaked with the powers of death, your eternal love arises, and never leaves us. For we rejoice with all your people and with the angels, because life is stronger than death! As we proclaim the glory of your name:

**All: Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ, whose mercy gathers us together in community, whose grace meets us in our brokenness, and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did; for our benefit. On the night before Jesus died, He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.

Do this, in remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

## SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith. We remember Christ's life of love, and friendship, and teaching, we remember Christ's dying, and rising to life again. Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower. These simple elements are shared in community, so that we may taste and see your goodness and become one body in Christ. Please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. Approach in single file down the center aisle. After all have received the elements, we will partake together.

Let us partake of the bread. Let us partake of the cup.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: **O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life. You commission us to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of *Lyra Davidica* wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

\*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: From darkness and death, we find light and life.

**Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: From doubt and despair, we find faith and hope.

**Many: Christ is with us now! Shout for joy!**

One: **From dead ends and overgrown paths, we find new beginnings and clear vistas.**

**Many: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**

**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:** Roxanne Todd & 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**

### **Saturday, April 5**

**Easter Sunday**

### **Monday, April 6**

**7:00 p.m. Council Meeting**

### **Saturday, April 25**

**DMA Conference Meeting**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of April**

### **Birthdays**

**April 8: Leslie Edwards**

**April 11: Roxanne Todd**

- Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at [www.icucc.org](http://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 29 was \$790. 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

# E A S T E R D A Y

April 5, 2026

John 20:1-18

## Easter

There has always been something powerful about Mary's lonesome walk to the tomb that first Easter morning as each grief-filled step leads to renewed hope. And the beauty is that while we know what awaits her — not a lifeless body, but rather the Risen and Resurrected Lord — she doesn't.

In her pre-dawn funeral march, she has no clue that with just a few more difficult steps she will understand how God's promises are true. She will be awed to see how death doesn't get the victorious last word. She will hear the blessed new hellos that come after the heart-breaking good-byes.

Whenever I find myself moving in slow motion and the weight of loss makes it hard to take even one tiny shuffle forward, I take my side next to Mary. I imagine walking with her to the tomb of death that will be revealed as the tomb of life. I walk with her noticing how the darkness gradually changes color. One step forward and the black sky turns to gray. Another step forward and the gray lightens with twinges of pink. Yet another step and the pinks give way to dazzling golden hues. Each step, a step of faith. Each step, a step of promise. Each step leading to the promise of a resurrected life.

It happened to Mary, and it can happen to you on this day, the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday!

Remember Mary and find the courage in your losses of life to keep stepping forward, for those are the steps leading to hope and healing. Those are the steps that will reveal to us the loving compassion of our Risen Lord and Friend.

*God of Resurrection Hope, we praise You for the new day dawning. In Jesus, our hopes are renewed. In Jesus, grief will turn into joy. In Jesus, our tombs will indeed be made empty. May the steps of faith we take be strengthened by Your Love and may we never step moving forward toward Your beautiful promises. 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.)*



BUL0306

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