



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

May 17, 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.)

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "Morning Has Broken"

Immanuel Choir

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Marsha Chapman, Liturgist

One: Look to the heavens, people of God.

Many: See the power of the Most High God.

One: Christ ascends to heaven in glory.

Many: Shout to God with cries of joy.

One: Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.

Many: Sing praises to God, our King.

Invocation

Jeff Erno

God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens, may our hearts ascend to you. Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit, and open our lives to the fullness of your power, that we may be clothed with power on high. Help us wait patiently for the baptism of your Spirit, that we may be found worthy of your great gifts. Amen.

***Hymn: "Christ, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"**

Page 2

Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

Wait in patience for God's spirit. Wait in longing for the hope to which we are called. God will fill us with Christ's glorious Spirit and clothe us with power on high.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

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

Silent Meditation

*John 6:51; Heb. 9:26; 1 Cor. 10:4**George Hugh Bourne, 1874, alt.*

1 Christ, en-throned in heav-en-ly splen-dor, first be-got-ten from the dead,
 2 Here our hum-ble hom-age pay we, here in lov-ing rev-erence bow;
 3 Pas-chal Lamb, your of-fering fin-ished once for all when you were slain,
 4 Life-im-part-ing heav-en-ly man-na, strick-en rock with stream-ing side.

You a-lone, our strong de-fend-er, now lift up your peo-ple's head.
 Here for faith's dis-cern-ment pray we, lest we fail to know you now.
 In its full-ness un-di-min-ish-ed shall for-ev-er-more re-main,
 Heaven and earth with loud ho-san-na wor-ship you, the Lamb who died,

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Christ, our true and liv-ing Bread. Christ, our true and liv-ing Bread.
 You are here, we ask not how. You are here, we ask not how.
 Cleans-ing hearts from ev-ery stain. Cleans-ing hearts from ev-ery stain.
 Risen, as-cend-ed, glo-ri-fied! Risen, as-cend-ed, glo-ri-fied!

This post-communion hymn was one of seven by Anglican clergyman Bourne, who was headmaster at Chardstock College in England. It was first published in the United States in The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church (1941).

Tune: BRYN CALFARIA 8.7.8.7.4.7.
 William Owen, Y Peel Cerdador, 1852

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

Marsha Chapman, 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 47
Acts 1:1-11
1 Peter 5:6-11

Marsha Chapman, Liturgist
Page 518 Old Testament
Page 119 New Testament
Page 235 New Testament

Sermon: "Christ's Symbolic Ascension"

Jeff Erno

***Hymn: "Hail the Day that Sees Christ Rise"**

Page 4

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

O God, for your power and might, we praise you. For your love and mercy, we thank you. For giving us your Spirit and your every blessing, we honor you with our lives and gifts. Received from our hand the fruit of our industry, in ministry to a world in need of your glory. In the name of the one who ascended to heaven, that we might have fullness of life here on earth, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**

Page 5

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: Lift your eyes to the heavens

Many: We lift them to the one who ascended in glory.

One: Trust the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Many: We embrace the one who clothes us with power.

One: Go as witnesses of the risen Lord.

Many: We celebrate the one who brings us eternal life.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Jeff Erno

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

Acts 1:6-11; John 14:16

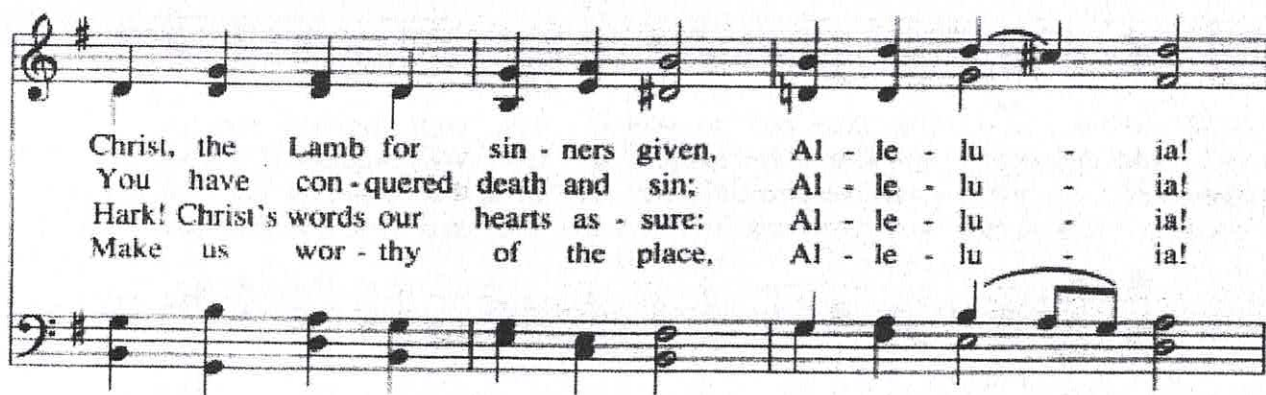
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



1 Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Christ, for you high tri - umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 See! The nail - marked hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Christ for us still in - ter - cede, Al - le - lu - ia!



To a throne in par - a - dise; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sing of God's re - deem - ing love; Al - le - lu - ia!
 By your suf - fering for us plead; Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 You have con - quered death and sin; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! Christ's words our hearts as - sure; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Make us wor - thy of the place, Al - le - lu - ia!



En - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!
 You, our Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 "I will send a Com - fort - er!" Al - le - lu - ia!
 Which you of - fer us by grace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Charles Wesley's original text was written for Ascension Day 1739 and had no alleluias; these were added in 1852 by G. E. White. Joseph Jones' tune bears the name of a twelfth-century bard and a town in Wales.

Tune: GWALCHMAI 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Joseph David Jones, 1868
 Alternate tune: LLANFAIR

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981



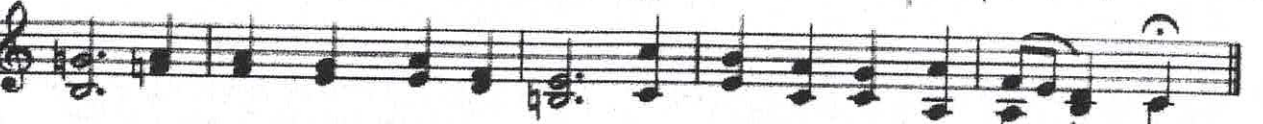
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant,
dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.



There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.

For another version, see 440

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. Copyright © 2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Marsha Chapman & 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

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**

Sunday, May 17

Ascension Sunday

Brainstorming Meeting after Service

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost Sunday

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Church office closed

Sunday, June 7

Book Study

Monday, June 8

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of May:

Birthdays

May 6: Rosemary Plummer

May 6: Douglas (Dougie) Stein

May 8: Kathy Stein

May 21: Brian Plummer

May 22: Suzanne Spiker

May 30: JoJo Hussey

- 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 May 3 was \$1,489 and May 10 was \$976. 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.
- 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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2026

John 17:1-11

Spirit of Witness

Eastertide is coming to an end. But before we usher in the power of the Holy Spirit at the celebration of Pentecost next week, I pause to pray. For you. Yes, you.

I have even stepped away from writing this to light a candle, thanking God for the hearts that would be touched by words that often seem a feeble attempt in capturing how amazing, awesome, and perplexingly mysterious our God is.

I thanked God for you, dear readers. I thanked God for each soul awakening to the Easter promise of new life. I thanked God that while we never have or never will see one another in person, we can still call each other siblings in Christ, connected by our thirst for not only knowing God, but for understanding God if only a little bit better.

Eastertide's 50 days are wrapping up and that means Jesus is about to leave his friends for good this time to ascend into Heaven. But before he goes, he talks to them, and he prays.

John 17 is known by scholars as the "high priestly prayer," where Jesus first prays for himself, thanking God for all that God has done through him, and then prays for others. I love that Jesus begins with himself in mind. It is a reminder that it is not selfish to pray for ourselves.

As a pastor, I have heard many people brush aside their worries, uttering something like "enough about me, my problems a nothing compared to others." That is so not true. Your worries, your fears and your problems matter to God. As the old hymn attests, many times "it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

After praying for himself, Jesus then prays for his friends, thanking God for them and asking for continued strength and protection for their days ahead.

I wonder how many times after Jesus finally left his earthly life that his friends remembered how, through the power of prayer, Jesus continues to be right there by their sides? How many times do we remember that when feeling lonely and needing our Friend and Savior in our life, that all we have to do is pray?

And what is prayer? It is simply talking to the one you love. Prayer is also sitting silently with the one you love the most as God doesn't need our words. All God wants is our hearts.

And so, I find myself on this Sunday as Eastertide comes to an end, sitting here saying a prayer of thanks for each one of you reading these words right now. And I pray you feel those prayers.

Heavenly God, we know that You are not far off, but very close to us. You are always surrounding us with love and protection. We thank Jesus for his example of prayer, too. May this day we find ourselves praying more frequently and praying more boldly, remembering that prayer does change all things. 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.)

