



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

May 3, 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.)

Ringin of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "Everything Within Me Worships You"

Immanuel Choir

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Liz Wilson, Liturgist

One: Come to Christ, our cornerstone.

Many: Christ has called us here.

One: Trust in God, our firm foundation.

Many: God is with us here.

One: Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

Many: May the Spirit guide our way.

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage US TO BE BRAVE. Strengthen us to face this world and to make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. Amen.

***Hymn: "Great is God's Faithfulness"**

Insert front & back

Prayer of Confession:

Mighty God, we want to be brave, but it's tempting to be small and afraid. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous. Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household, your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy. In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!

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

Pastor Liz Wilson, Liturgist

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

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

Pastor Liz Wilson, 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 31:1-5
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Pastor Liz Wilson, Liturgist
Page 505 Old Testament
Page 233 New Testament
Pages 108 & 109 New Testament

Sermon: "Great Is God's Faithfulness"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Page 3

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

***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

God of steadfast faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, that they may bring your message of faith and love to the world. Bless us also, that we may be steadfast and true in our giving and in our living. Build our church, build us, and build your world into a household of love and justice—the household you've envisioned since the beginning of time. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Page 4

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

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

One: 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Lift up your hearts!

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Celebrate God's love!

Many: It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

One: We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace! We celebrate the creative presence that called forth this glorious earth and the heavens above.

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Even when faced with impending death, Christ gave thanks and blessed the fruit of your good earth, offering not only bread and wine, but the bread of life and the wine of salvation.

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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

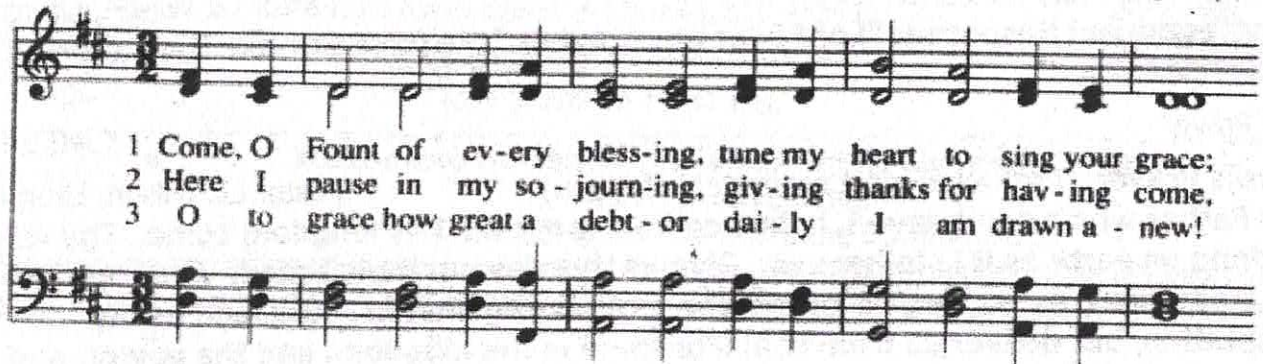
One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might be disciples of your love and grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that your life and love might flow through us.

ALL: Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now called to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

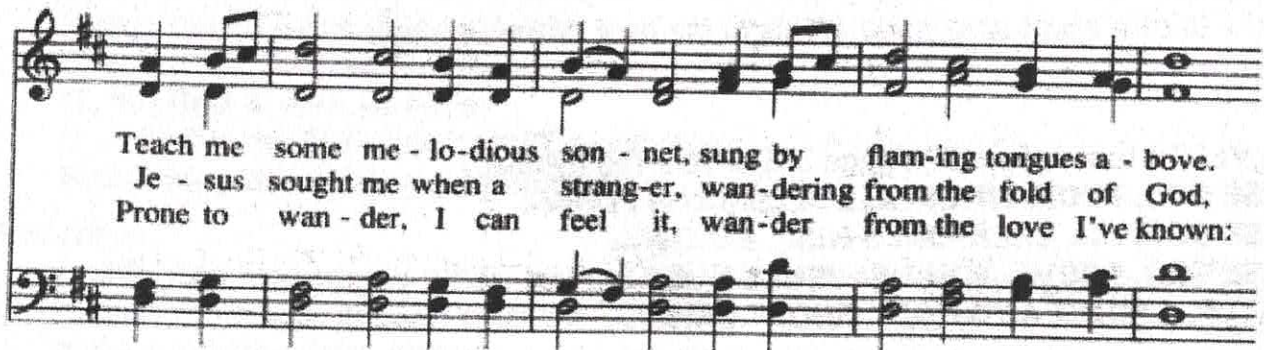
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



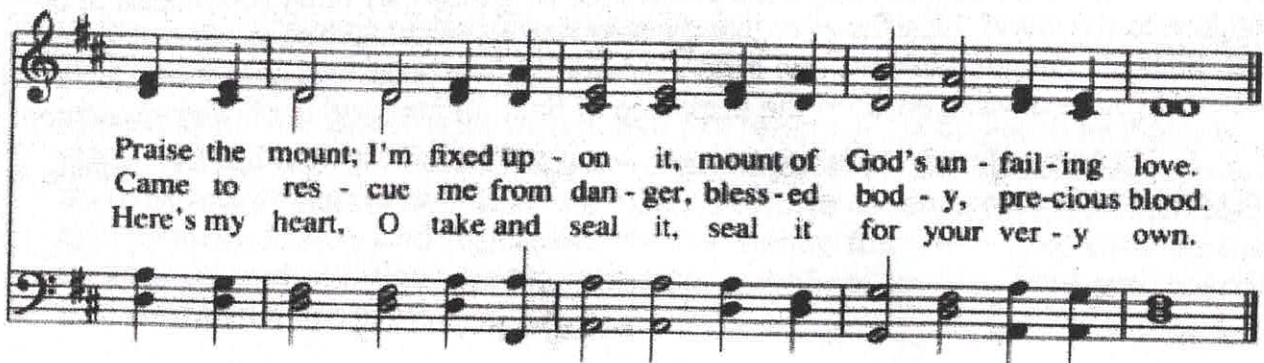
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - jour-n-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

***Benediction:**

One: Even as God sends us into the world

Many: Christ has prepared the way

One: Following Christ, we go to serve

Many: And love with faith and hope

One: Go forth with the assurance that our God is a Faithful God

Many: We go forth in the security of God's faithfulness.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

***Postlude**

*We scatter to serve******

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Pastor Liz Wilson

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**

Monday, May 4

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Church office closed

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of May:

Birthdays

May 6: Rosemary Plummer

May 6: Douglas (Dogie) 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 April 26 was \$1,050. 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.**
- **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**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness

Stories of the enduring witness of the Celtic saints have always captured my imagination. What adventures they had, and what trust in God that they displayed! We all heard of St. Patrick overcoming being kidnapped, enslaved and using all of life's travails to glorify God — and chase a snake or two out of the Emerald Isle!

Today I want to introduce you to Gobnait. Believed to have been born in the sixth century, Gobnait was told by an angel to leave her home and keep wandering until nine white deer appeared. When they did, that then would be her place of resurrection — the place where life would be full of meaning.

So Gobnait went off in search of her place of resurrection, wandering for miles until one day the white deer appeared in what is now County Cork, Ireland. There she settled and built a monastery, living her resurrected life of prayer and praise — and beekeeping. (Gobnait is the patron saint of beekeepers.)

When I heard Gobnait's story, she instantly became my kindred saint. I resonated with the call to find one's place of resurrection, where all our longings are met and life's purpose becomes a divine one.

I guess it's safe to say that I'm always on the lookout for my own nine white deer. The moment I know I'm where I'm meant to be. But for all my yearning and searching, I realize that sometimes I must ask, "Have I already arrived?"

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told his followers, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." It is a message we need to hear for our hearts seem to be in a perpetual state of troubling. We feel lonely even though we are not alone. We worry about daily bread for our tables, while others wonder if they will have a roof over their heads as the world-wide housing crisis continues. And we worry about the direction of our lives: Is there more to do? New places to go? Unrealized dreams? Wasted time to redeem?

It would be so wonderful to have white deer appear, for then we would know we have found our divine bliss.

But we all must find our own place of resurrection and that means each journey will be different. What remains the same is that Jesus assures our troubled hearts that there is no need to worry. He goes before us, preparing the way forward. There will always be a place in God's loving home. Perhaps that message is our white deer this day, making us see that wherever we go, we have already arrived.

Loving God, as we seek our place of resurrection, ease our troubled hearts on this journey by making us alert that we are not alone. You are with us. 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.)

