



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

May 31, 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

Choir Anthem "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Franz Schubert

Children Message

Jeff Erno

Immanuel Choir

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

One: In the beginning

Many: God created mortals, and asked us to care for all creation.

One: In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus...

Many: Jesus showed us how to love as God loves.

One: In our time, and throughout eternity...

Many: Jesus commands us to lead others to follow in the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Loving God, in that first spark of creativity, your set the cosmos in motion. Time after time, your creative presence brings new life and hope. We experience your love, as we see the marvels of nature. We experience your love, as we study the ethics and compassion of Christ. We experience your love through the ever-presence of your Holy Spirit, who was with you in the beginning, was with Christ throughout his ministry, and is with us to the end of the age. For your loving presence in all your infinite ways, we give you thanks. Amen.

***Hymn: "Come, God, Creator, Be our Shield"**

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Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

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Come, God, Creator, Be Our Shield

Marion M. Meyer, 1990

★ 69

Ps. 84:8-12

1 Come, God, Cre - a - tor, be our shield, the
2 Come, gra - cious Je - sus, be our guest, our
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, be our guide, our

One to whom our cares we yield;
morn - ing joy, our eve - ning rest;
strength to risk a - gainst the tide,

And in our wor - ship, faith im - part, your
And in our dai - ly lives im - part your
That in God's world we shall im - part your

grace and calm to ev - ery heart.
love and peace to ev - ery heart.
light and hope to ev - ery heart.

After serving as a teacher in Baghdad, Iraq, Marion Meyer joined the staff of The Pilgrim Press and United Church Press in 1958. She retired thirty years later as senior editor. Her tune, named for Old First Reformed Church, U.C.C., in Philadelphia, was composed as a setting for the traditional table grace she adapted in stanza two.

Tune: OLD FIRST L.M.
Marion M. Meyer, 1990
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

The Congregation Prays
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

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:

Genesis 1:1-4

John 1:1-5

Matthew 28:16-20

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Page 1 Old Testament

Page 91 New Testament

Page 34 New Testament

Sermon: "Trinitarian Algorithm"

Jeff Erno

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

Insert

Stewardship Message

Announcements

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

Offering:

Offertory "God Bless America"

See small Insert

*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

As we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts of time and resources, our service, and our witness, we are grateful to join in God's creative acts to bring love and peace and hope to the world. Amen

*Hymn: "Rock of Ages"

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*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: Go forth with God's Spirit, eternally present,

Many: Present even before the first instant of creation

One: Go forth with Christ, present with us

Many: Present with us to the end of the age

One: Go forth with God, joining God's creativity

Many: Joining God's creativity in wonder and awe.

ALL: AMEN

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

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

John 10:1-29

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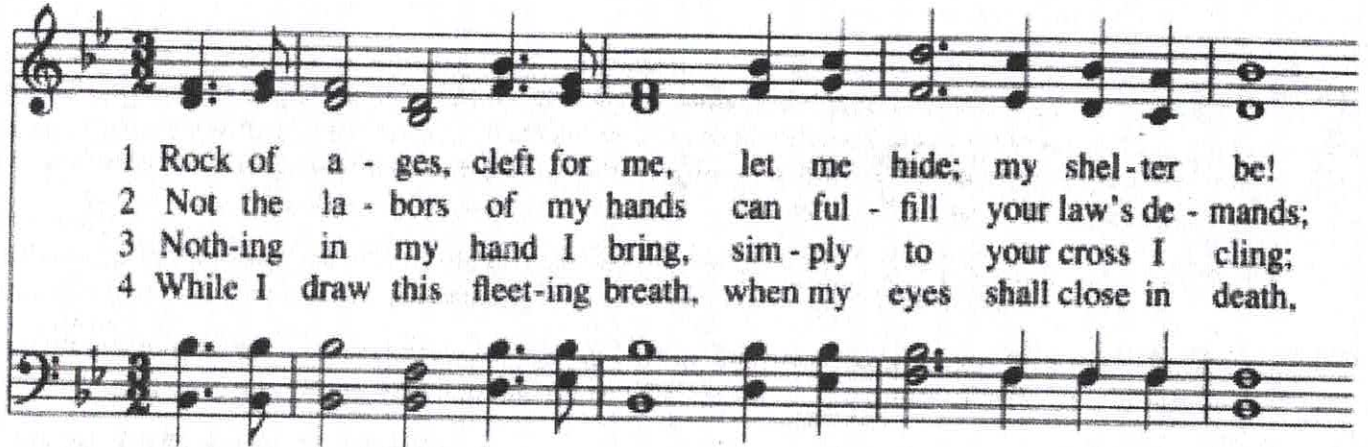
The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

GOD BLESS AMERICA

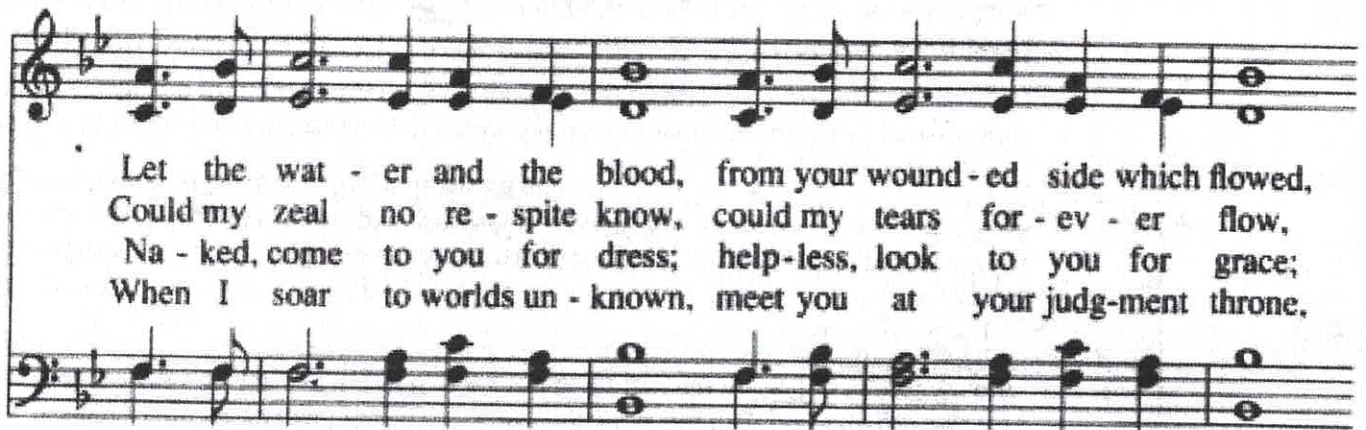
(last part of the offertory, please feel free to sing along)

Irving Berlin, (words and music) refusing to cash in on his patriotism, assigned all royalties from this song to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

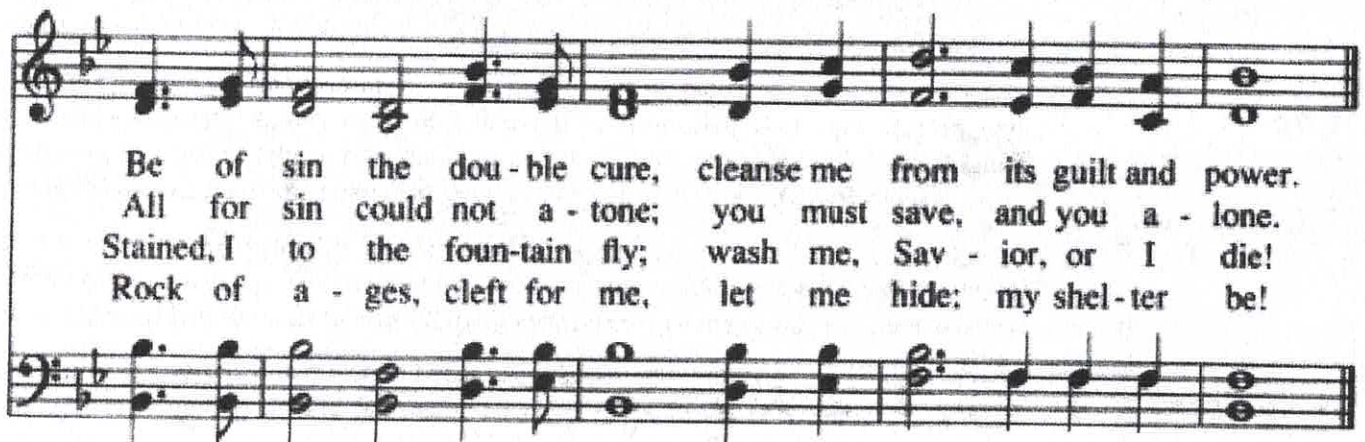
God bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies
to the oceans white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home.

*Isa. 26:4; John 19:34**Augustus M. Toplady; 1776; alt.*


1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide; my shel-ter be!
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill your law's de - mands;
 3 Noth-ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to your cross I cling;
 4 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when my eyes shall close in death,



Let the wat - er and the blood, from your wound - ed side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no re - spite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to you for dress; help-less, look to you for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un - known, meet you at your judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 All for sin could not a - tone; you must save, and you a - lone.
 Stained, I to the foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide; my shel-ter be!

Augustus Toplady first published this poem as part of an extensive article in which he likened the English national debt to the burden of sin. The present form is a hybrid of the original and revisions in 1815 by Thomas Cotterill.

Tune: TOPLADY 7.7.7.7.7.
 Thomas Hastings, 1830
 Alternate tune: REDHEAD NO. 76

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, 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 June:

Birthdays

June 5: Nick Caporale

June 15: Margi Seller

June 22: Nicky Morelli-Maurer

June 22: Jackson Willcock

June 23: Chris Plummer

Anniversaries

June 6: Rosemary & Brian Plummer

June 20: David & Willie Ollie-Ray

- 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 17 was \$1,719 and May 24 TBA. 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

This Is Good

In the beginning, God created ... the heavens, the earth, the creatures of the land and sea, day and night, and then man and woman. After each phase of creation, we are told that God "saw that it was good."

Repeating the phrase "it was good" isn't some literary technique to make the story more poetic and profound. It is a theological statement of how carefully God thought through each phase of Creation, marking each finished phase as completed — and good. As God brought the ball of chaos into diverse, colorful life, God gave it a divine stamp of approval.

It's no wonder the early saints held God's act of creation in great reverence and awe — more so than we tend to do today.

St. Basil (329-379) wrote that he wanted "creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you clear remembrance of the Creator." While St. John Chrysostom (347-470) said, "From the creation, learn to admire the Lord!" And St. John of Damascus (675-749) simply and powerfully stated what was completely obvious to him: "The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God."

Let that last saintly observation linger in your heart for a bit. And as it does, ask yourself what your days would be like if you viewed all of Creation as a living icon of the face of God.

I can tell you that after lingering on St. John of Damascus' words, I went for my daily walk into the Vermont woods with fresh eyes. Every budding leaf, swaying grass blade and buzzing bee seemed different when viewing them as "a living icon of the face of God."

I began understanding more deeply God's assessment of each little thing created as being "good." But beyond the natural world, I continued my "it is good" quest to see all of Creation as the living icon of the face of God. And that meant looking into the eyes of each human I passed as I walked down the grocery store aisles getting my weekly shopping done. Rather than being focused on where I could find pinto beans, I focused on people. I noticed how some faces seemed tired, some seemed agitated, some seemed peaceful, others seemed radiant. Yet no matter what the expression, all the faces seen with my "it is good" lenses were all stunningly beautiful. It is amazing how different the world seems when seen as a living icon of the face of God.

In the beginning, God created ... you and me. May we remember that we each bear the imprint of the divine on our souls. And despite our flaws, God still deems that what has been made is indeed good.

Creating God, Your handiwork is perfection. Forgive us for all the times that we have taken Your beauty for granted. Forgive us for the times we might have marred Your pristine canvas with the blotches of sin. May this day we begin to see everything in this world as a living icon of Your face. 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.)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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