



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

June 21, 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

Special Music

Kelly Willis

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Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Alex Eisenhardt, Liturgist

One: We are part of the Church universal – faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, and ability, gathered to love and serve.

Many: We are an Open and Affirming church. Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day.

One: There is a place in God's heart. There is a place at Christ's table.

Many: There is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Straight.

One: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

Many: May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Gathered in this sacred space, O Creator, Spirit, in the multicolored company of Your Church on earth and in heaven. We celebrate Your creation and invite Your presence into our midst. We know, Creator, Spirit, that eternity cannot hold You, nor can our little words describe the breadth of Your faithfulness to us. Yet in the space of our small heart and in silence, come close and repair us.

***Hymn:**

"God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways"

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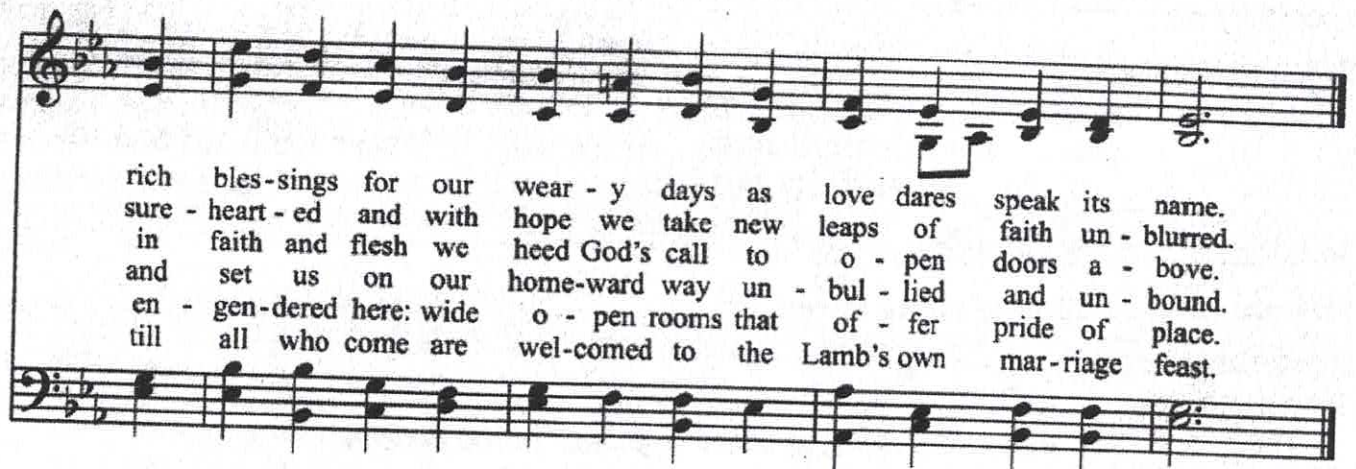
God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways

Edward Moran, 2015

DUNDEE
Scottish Psalter 1615



1. God loves us in my - ster - ious ways be - yond all sin or shame;
2. More light and truth have yet to break from God's e - ter - nal Word;
3. We take a chance on God, and fall to high - er depths of love;
4. Bind up the wounds of shun and stray for pro - di - gals new found
5. "Come forth!" from deep, con - fin - ing tombs of gen - der, class, and race
6. A place where friends are swell and true and lives and loves in - creased;



rich bles - sings for our wear - y days as love dares speak its name.
sure - heart - ed and with hope we take new leaps of faith un - blurred.
in faith and flesh we heed God's call to o - pen doors a - bove.
and set us on our home - ward way un - bul - lied and un - bound.
en - gen - dered here: wide o - pen rooms that of - fer pride of place.
till all who come are wel - comed to the Lamb's own mar - riage feast.

Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

The One who breathed life into our lungs continues to be present with us. God, who has made us reflective of God's own image, has forgiven us all and made us new creations. Therefore, since our sins are forgiven, let us go forth with love and peace, honoring and upholding the dignity of all we meet, knowing we see reflection of God's image all around. Thanks be to God.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Alex Eisenhardt, 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)

Alex Eisenhardt, 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.

Special Music

Maria Wade

Scripture Readings:

Galatians 3:23-29

John 10:14-30

Matthew 28:18-20

Alex Eisenhardt, Liturgist

Page 189 Old Testament

Pages 103 & 104 New Testament

Page 34 New Testament

Sermon:

"Send No One Away"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn:

"God of Many Faces"

Page 4

Stewardship Message

Announcements

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

Offering:

Offertory

Music by Peter & Richard Hill-Tysick

***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

We pray that you will find our gifts acceptable, God. If we have not given according to what we have, we seek the courage to do so. May these gifts relieve suffering and reveal hope. May they give meaning to all who give and all who receive. We dedicate them, that those who have much may not have too much, and those who have little may not have too little. Amen.

*Hymn:

"Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives"

Page 5

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

God of Many Faces

Amy Cerniglia

SLANE
Irish Melody, harm. Jack Schrader

God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,
God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,
God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show
God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with - in ours,

sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.
sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,
us the new names that re - flect our true souls.
shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.

Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,
wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,
Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word
Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,

car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.
hou - ses of ru - by and walls rowed with jade.
that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.
ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives

Adrienne Stricker

ST. DENIO

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,
2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied fear we in - cite,
3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,
4. Our hope is your free - dom for both great and small,
5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,
when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights,
we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.
to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.
your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,
Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,
For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished in sin,
We chal - lenge and quest - ion each law with - out grace,
And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.
we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.
a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.
af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.
to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: We as a community of faith value diversity, and celebrate those differences as intentional acts of God's creation

Many: The realm of God includes all persons.

One: We welcome and include all persons.

Many: Including persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and family units

One: In the full life of the congregation

Many: We will send no one away!

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: Alex Eisenhardt

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
Will resume in September

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

**4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz"
LGBTQ+ Support Group**

Sunday, June 21

Open and Affirming Sunday

Father's Day

Potluck luncheon after Service Today.

All are Welcome.

9:30 a.m. Book Study in Lounge

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 June 7 was \$1,325 and June 14 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
- "What Is the Bible?" book study, Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in church lounge, every Sunday through July 19.
- Please remember to sign the black attendance book at the end of each pew.
- Our annual "Scripture at Scriptor" summer picnic is coming up in August. We will be having a baptismal service after the picnic. If you are interested in being baptized or re-professing your faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, please speak to Pastor Jeff.

June 21, 2026

Matthew 10:24-39

Daring Discipleship

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “daring discipleship”? Do images of protesting, community organizing or letter writing campaigns to elected officials emerge?

While these qualify as daring acts of discipleship for the times we are living in, I feel I need to speak of a truth that doesn't get received warmly today. That is, not everyone is called to such acts of discipleship. And that's okay.

It's time for the children of God to stop judging other children of God for what they do and don't do. Remember what Paul said, the body has many parts. We all have different roles to play in the building of God's kingdom.

When Jesus asked his followers to take up the cross, what he was inviting us to do was to surrender completely our wants and wills, our desires and delights, our love of self and need for personal satisfaction, and replace it instead with a selfless love. This love is risky, costly and demanding for it will lead us to places we never thought we would go and introduce us to people we never thought we would ever associate with.

This path will look differently for each one of us. That friend who went quiet on social media is not condoning any wrongs. They are choosing to make this world better by retreating in prayer. How often do we forget in moments of crisis to first calmly give it over to the Lord?

How about that friend who refuses to attend a march? They have decided that for them showing the love of Christ means spending time in a home for disabled adults.

My friends, the cross that we are asked to pick up is the same, but we all have different ways of grabbing hold of it, and we all carry it at different paces and to different places.

In his reflection, “Risky Obedience,” Walter Brueggemann reminds us that when we follow Jesus into a “world of fear and threat and anger,” that sometimes we go as “willing followers” and other times as “reluctant followers, slow to get under way.”

But either way, we are all called to be “practitioners of Jesus' goodness, generosity and hospitality.”

May today we find ourselves being revived once again to be the daring disciples the world needs — and may we respect the many ways that discipleship is lived out.

God of justice and peace, we know this world is broken and needs our love. Help us to become those daring disciples who follow Jesus on a path of forgiveness and inclusion. As we do, keep us from judging others. May our eyes be fixed on You alone. 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.)



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OF CHRIST