



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

June 7, 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.)

Ring of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "In Remembrance"

Flute Soloist Mary Mueller,
from Community of Christ

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Liz Wilson, Liturgist

One: Shout with joy

Many: For God has blessed us

One: Sing with praise

Many: For God is here

One: Worship and pray

Many: For God is listening

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Blessed God, thank you for blessing us in your myriad ways. Thank you for trusting us to be your people, to shine with your love, and to work for your justice. In this time of worship, guide and strengthen us, fully and abundantly. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

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

Page 2

Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate Christ, we yearn for that mysterious gift of Shalom. We long for healing and wholeness, for peace and comfort. But the gift all too often seems elusive, or even absent. Touch our hearts and heal our weary souls. Bless our wounds, that we may bless others in need of your love. Soothe our fears with courage, that we may be strong enough to answer your call. Raise us into new life with your miraculous grace, that we may be blessings of miraculous grace in your world. Amen.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

252

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

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

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

John 10:1-29

1 ; Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;
1 Je - 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.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

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

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
William B. Bradbury, 1859

Words of Assurance

Christ's love is faithful and true. God's blessings are sure. Be encouraged, dear friends, your faith has made you well.

Jeff Erno

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)

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:

Genesis 12:1-9

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Pastor Liz Wilson, Liturgist

Page 10 Old Testament

Page 155 New Testament

Page 9 New Testament

Sermon: "Following by Faith"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Page 4

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 "The Rainbow Connection"

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

God of abundance and love, bless these gifts, and bless our lives with your abundance and your love. In all that we have and in all that we are, may we bless and honor You and bless and honor Your beloved world. Amen.

*Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Page 5

*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.

OFFERTORY FOR GAY PRIDE MONTH
THE RAINBOW CONNECTION
words & music by Paul Williams & Kenneth L. Ascher

Why are there so many songs about rainbows, and what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions, and rainbows have nothing to hide.
So we've been told and some choose to believe it, I know they're wrong, wait and see.
Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection, the lovers, the dreamers and me.

Who said that every wish would be heard and answered when wished on the morning
star? Somebody thought of that, and someone believed it; look what it's done so far.
What's so amazing that keeps us stargazing, and what do we think we might see?
Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection, the lovers, the dreamers and me.

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.

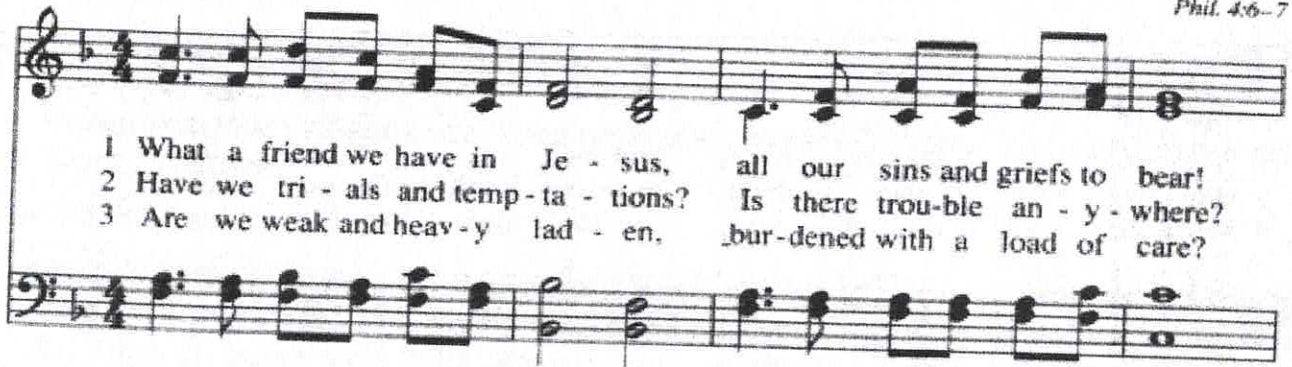
Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

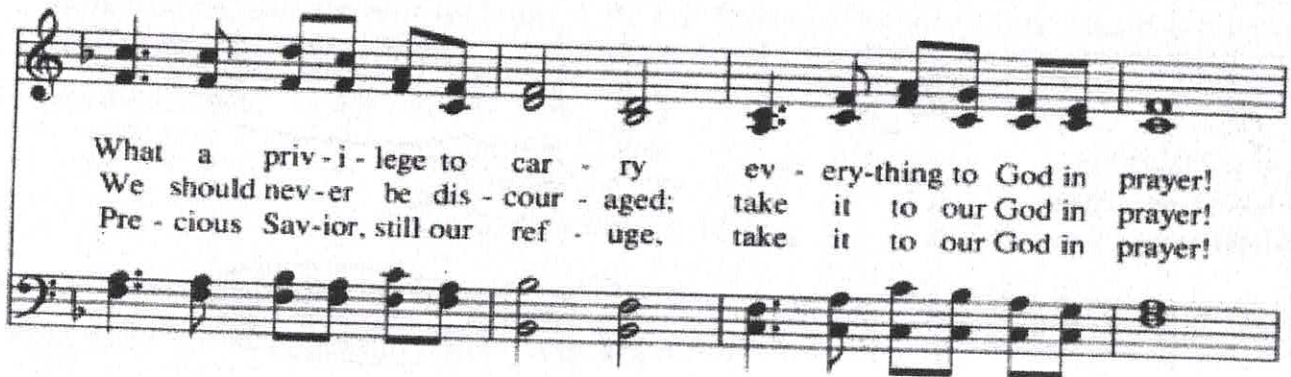
506

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

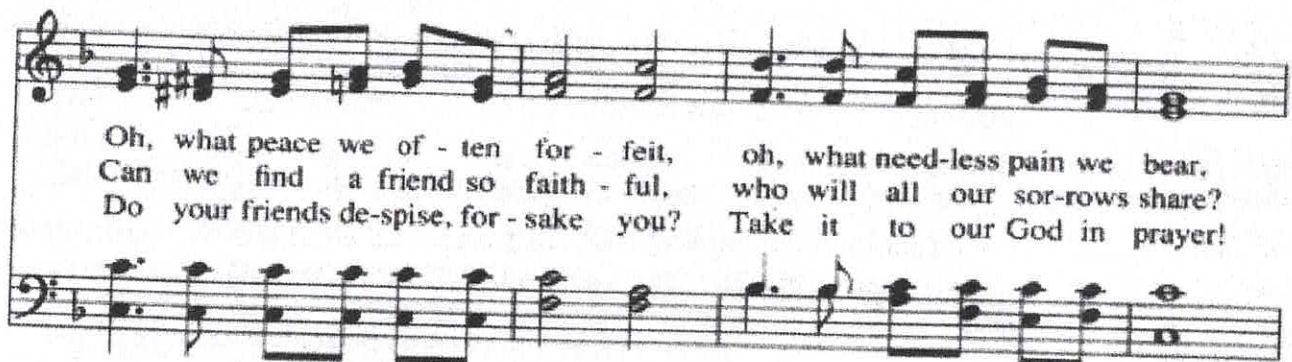
Phil. 4:6-7



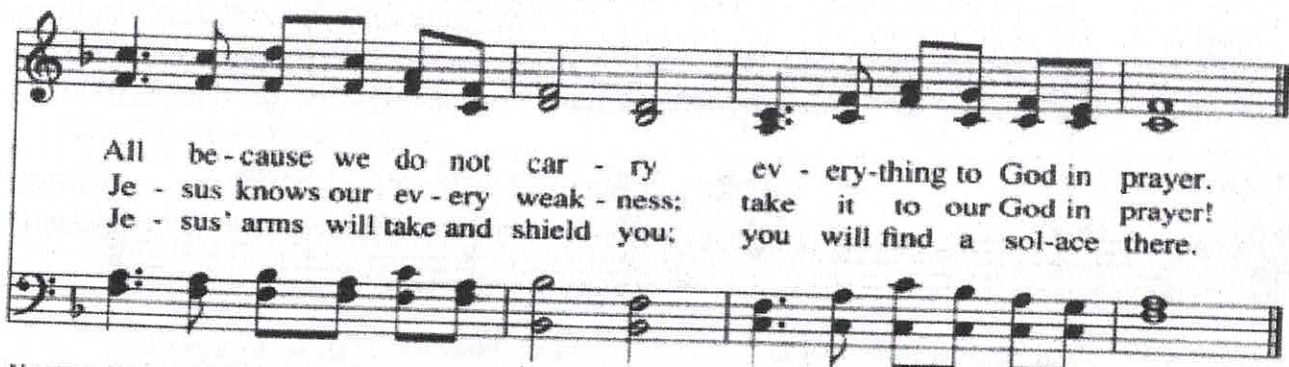
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

***Benediction:**

One: God's promise is sure

Many: We are blessed beyond measure

One: Christ's call is true

Many: We go forth to be blessings of love for the world

One: Every day is a test of faith

Many: But we follow and trust You to lead us

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: Pastor Liz Wilson & Jane 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, 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 was \$846. 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

June 7, 2026

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

Corrie Ten Boom once said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." It was that belief in God's protection that gave her the courage to hide Jewish families during the World War II German occupation.

It's amazing what we can do when we trust our next steps to God. Sadly, many of us never get the chance to be awed by this great God because we prefer the safety of what we are familiar with rather than risk any new beginning.

Yet throughout the generations the stories overflow of those who dared to say "yes" to God's invitation to step off the beaten path. Abram is one of those who can tell such a tale. Although Abram was beyond the dreaming big stage, as we often believe we enter as we age, God told him to leave kindred behind. It was time to go to a land where God would make Abram's name great. It would be a place Abram's offspring would inhabit and keep multiplying in.

Abram couldn't pass up this offer. It was too enticing, especially since he and his wife, Sarai, were childless. Could there still be a chance to leave a legacy?

They packed their belongings and set forth. And God did not disappoint. Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, signifying the new thing God was doing in his life, had descendants as numerous as the stars in heaven. Sarai's name was also changed to Sarah.

I've always been enamored by Abram's call story, as it has bolstered my fainting heart when daring to step into an unknown future. But before you applaud my faith, let me point out that my Abram moments happened when I was filled with youthful ignorance.

Now that I'm older, I find myself hesitant to go in any direction without first asking God, "Does the journey come with a pension and health care?" I had always hoped my faith, not my fear, would grow stronger as I aged.

It's one thing to heed God's call in our youth, but who among the AARP card carriers would be excited for such a journey? Our golden years should be ones of rest and comfort, not unknown adventures. Yet God doesn't worry about the fire hazard those numerous candles on our birthday cakes have turned into. God still wants to blaze a glorious future for us.

Who will dare to have the faith of old Abram? I pray I will. I pray you will. For we all have a call story still waiting to be told.

God of amazing adventures and divine protection, may this day we tell our fears to be gone. May faith overflow in our hearts, helping us to trust our unknown futures to a God who we do know: the God of love who never lets us down. 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