



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

July 5, 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.)

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Special Music

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

One: The Lord has greatly blessed us with all we need and more

Many: God has done miracles in our lives beyond what we could ask

One: The Holy One has made us thousands of myriads

Many: Not just one thing, but multitudes

One: Let us come now again

Many: Always to offer our praise to the Creator of all.

Invocation

Jeff Erno

God of life, you take what feels complicated and make it simple. You take what seems simple and show us the complexity. You remind us that we are more than we think we are, more than we believe we can be, and all that you have made us and called us to become. Come, God, and lead us forward with joy and gladness. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Help us see past the expectations and assumptions into the world you long for us to create, with mercy and justice and grace for us all. Amen.

***Hymn: "When Peace Like a River"**

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Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

God speaks into our hearts words of love and grace. With joy and gladness does our Creator lead us into life. God grants us free will, and thus, like Christ himself, we grapple with temptation. But following by faith, we find deliverance through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

When Peace, Like a River

(It Is Well with My Soul)

Px. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this - glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9, with refrain
Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Prayer of Confession:

God of us all, we incline our ears to you now, listening again for the sound of your voice. We do not always remember to listen, O God. We do not always remember to hear when you speak into our hearts. We do not always remember to look deeper than the surface. We do not always seek your guidance or follow it. But we remember now, and we long to listen now, to hear and see, to seek and to follow. Turn us away from all that is just noise and back to the sound of your soul. To your heart beating for us always. Amen.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Roxanne Todd, 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)

Roxanne Todd, 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:

Job 1:1, 6-12
Matthew 4:1-11
Romans 7:14-25

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist
Page 453 Old Testament
Page 3 New Testament
Page 157 New Testament

Sermon: "The Devil Made Me Do It"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn: "I Need You Every Hour"

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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"

***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

Gracious God, you have made our lives more than we ever dreamed, offering blessings beyond our greatest imaginings, multitudes of mercy, great gifts of grace. From this bounty, we offer ourselves and our lives, our time, talents and treasures, with joy and gladness for now and for always.

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.

I Need You Every Hour

Annie S. Hawks, 1872; alt.
Refrain added by Robert Lowry, 1872; alt.

1 I need you ev - ery hour, O God of grace;
2 I need you ev - ery hour, in faith or fear;
3 I need you ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;
4 I need you ev - ery hour; teach me your will,

the peace your voice af - fords, I now em - brace.
temp - ta - tions lose their power when you are near.
come quick - ly and a - bide or life is vain.
and your rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

Refrain

I need you, how I need you! Ev - ery hour I need you;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior; I come to you

First sung at a convention of the National Baptist Sunday School Association, this hymn was used by Dwight Moody and Ira Sankey in both England and the United States. Annie S. Hawks, a Baptist, was the author of some 400 hymns.

Tune: NEED 6.4.6.4. with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1872

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

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

***Benediction:**

Jeff Erno

One: People of God, may you rest upon the foundation of a Mighty God

Many: God is our strength and our salvation

One: People of God, may you call upon the Lord to lead you not into temptation

Many: May God deliver us from evil

One: Go and live in peace, this day and all days

Many: We go in peace, sheltered by God's unfailing love.

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: Roxanne Todd

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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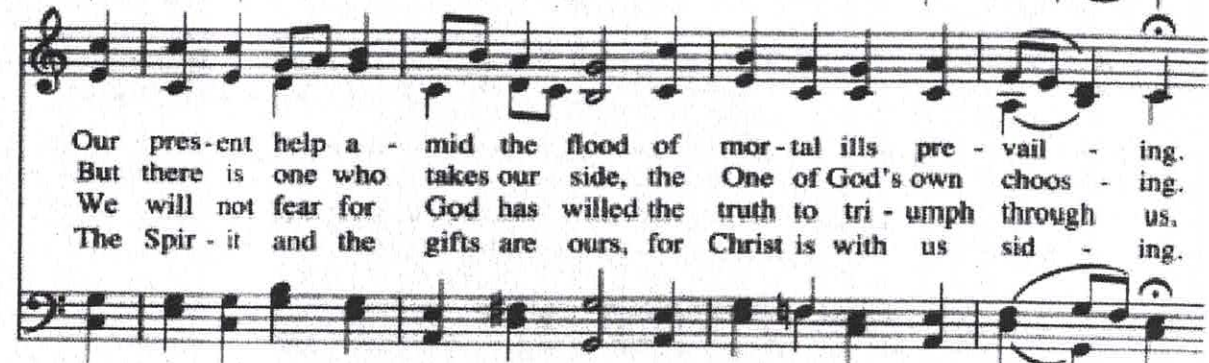
Martin Luther, c. 1529

Px. 46

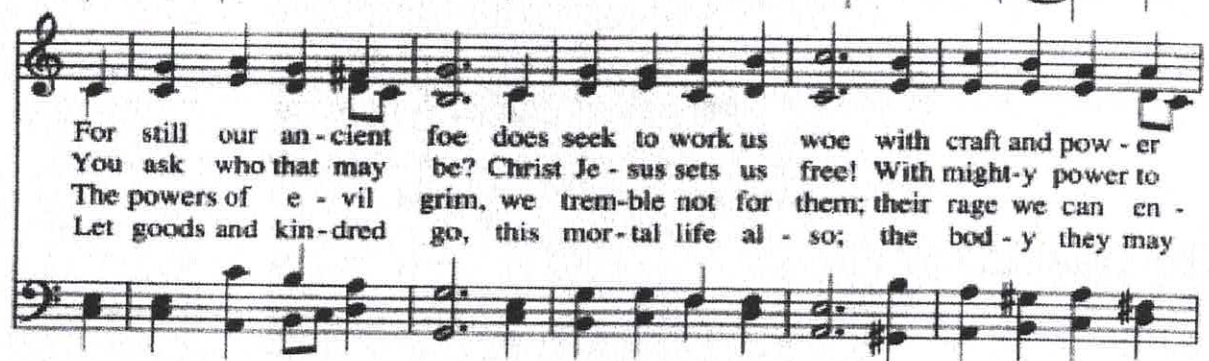
Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981



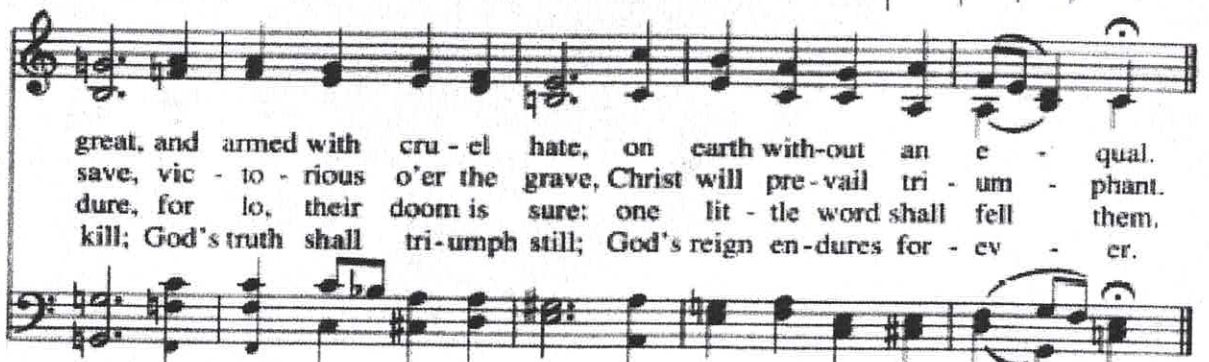
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



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) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.
Martin Luther, c. 1529
Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.
For another version, see 440

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 (last practice until Sept.)

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

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

Sunday, July 5

9:30 a.m. Book Study

Monday, July 13

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of July:

Birthdays

July 3: Connie Habermehl

July 3: Justin Willcock

July 7: Garrett Wilson

July 15: Aaron Douglas

July 19: Terry Sutton

July 29: Mary Beth Wiechert

July 30: Art Nagasaki

- 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 21 was \$1,064 and June 28 was \$720. 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.

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Chosen Journeys

My husband wonders why I make life hard for myself. He especially wonders this when, under the scorching sun, he watches me walk by the hose he bought — the one with the extra-long extension — choosing instead to lug sloshing buckets of water from the house to my out-of-the-way garden.

It is a bit odd. I sometimes question my own sanity, too. But I have chosen this garden journey as a spiritual discipline. For in the arduous act of carrying water buckets, I'm reminded of those who still walk miles for their water. It is a small, prayerful act that keeps my coddled heart conscious of the urgent need for clean, accessible water for all.

Last summer, though, I finally admitted that watering the garden this way was becoming too much for me. My husband smiled, thinking the prized hose he bought would finally be used. He was wrong. Rather, what arrived a few days later in the mail was a 19th-century wooden yoke from a farmer in Lithuania. Its well-worn patina featured ornate notches carved into the wood that kept the buckets from sliding.

I placed the arch of the yoke behind my neck and masterfully balanced the buckets. The yoke did help to distribute the weight of the water, lightening the load a bit, and making my task a bit easier. And it also deepened my spiritual gardening discipline, as feeling the buckets sway with my steps, I heard my Savior's invitation once again: Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

I thought about the heavy burdens I carried that no one knew of — the worries that sloshed around in my spiritual buckets. I had grown weary by their weight. I had a tiredness in my bones that no sleep could cure. It was a tiredness that came from the constant buzz of stress keeping my nerves on high alert.

How many times would I ignore Jesus' help? Why did I insist on carrying all of life's burdens alone?

It is no wonder Jesus told the people of his time to take his yoke, for his was an easy one. Before modern machinery, farmers would use a wooden yoke on their animals. The frame that joined two beasts of burdens would mean they would share the weight of a load, making it easier to keep moving forward.

What a beautiful invitation we have as well. This is our opportunity, this day, to finally give our burdens to the one who will make them lighter. Will you embrace Jesus' yoke? I have. The garden hose, though? That I still ignore.

Patient God, how tiresome it must be to watch us struggling with the burdens and stresses and worries that we insist on carrying by ourselves. Help us to finally accept Jesus' invitation to take his yoke. May we stop being crushed by the weight of this world. May we know that all we struggle with is now in Jesus' capable and loving hands. 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.)



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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