



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

August 30, 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

Pastor Jeff Erno

Special Music

Susan Joul

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Marsha Chapman, Liturgist

One: O give thanks to the Lord

Many: We call on God's name.

One: Make known the deeds of our Creator,

Many: Singing them into the world.

One: Sing to God, O People.

Many: We will sing praise

One: To tell of God's wondrous works,

Many: And give thanks for so many miracles.

One: Come and seek the presence of the Lord

Many: And glory in God's holy name.

One: Let the hearts of all who seek the Holy rejoice,

Many: For God brings strength to all the people.

Invocation

Pastor Jeff Erno

Creator, God, who shall we say that you are? By what name can we call you, that would be enough to speak of all that you are and all that you shall be? We can only call you "I AM," for you "were" and "are" and always "will be" the Holy One. You call us by name and invite us to come to you. We answer, "Here I am," and come to stand on holy ground. May we remember that all ground is holy ground, for you are in all times and places, calling us to our lives each moment. Amen.

***Hymn:**

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

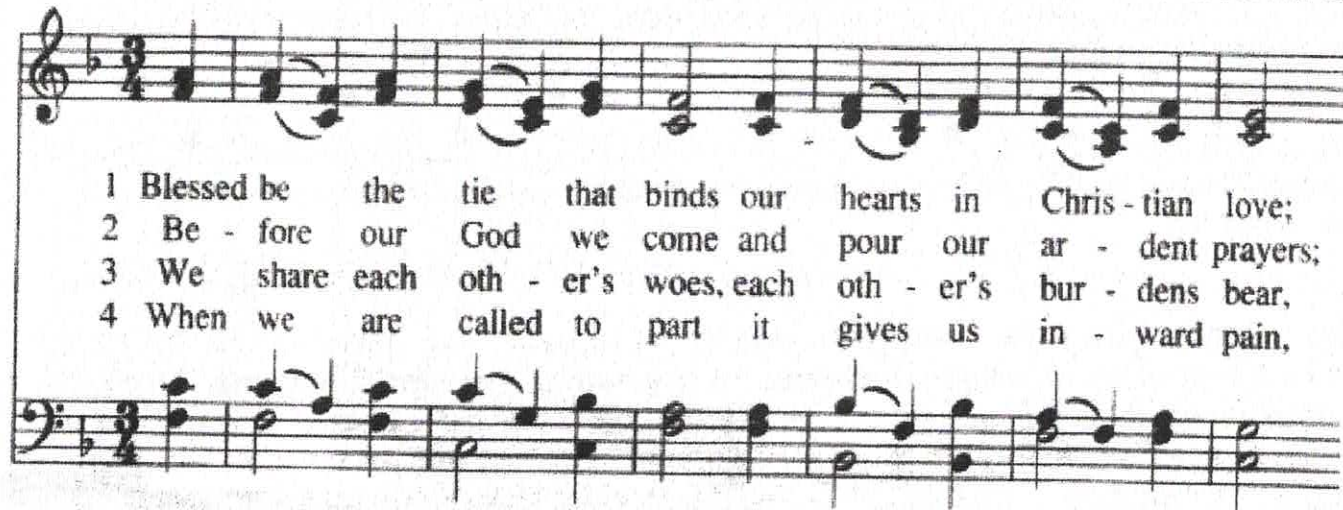
Page 2

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

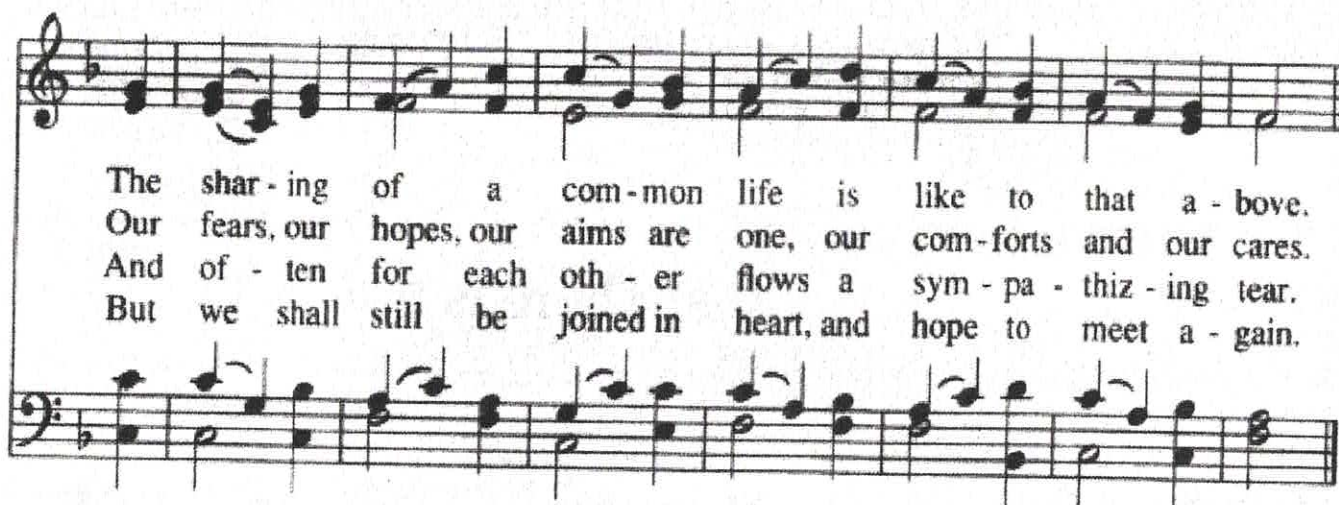
393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jeff Erno

God of our lives, we have cried to you in our pain. You have heard our suffering and stayed with us through our struggle. You have never left us alone. When we have been hungry, you have fed us. When we have been thirsty, you have refreshed us. When we have been angry, you have brought us to peace. You give us patience, God, and help us to preserve until you and we can rejoice again in hope.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

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

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Jeff Erno

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

Marsha Chapman, 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:

Psalms 63:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

John 13:31-35

Marsha Chapman, Liturgist

Page 527 Old Testament

Page 162 New Testament

Page 108 New Testament

Sermon:

"Living By Love"

Pastor Jeff Erno

*Hymn:

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Page 4

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

Pastor Jeff Erno

Gracious God, you have done marvelous things, wondrous works for us and for all your people. May we make your deeds known, your miracles told and your glory sung in our prayer and praise. May your blessings flow through our lives and into the world. Amen.

*Hymn:

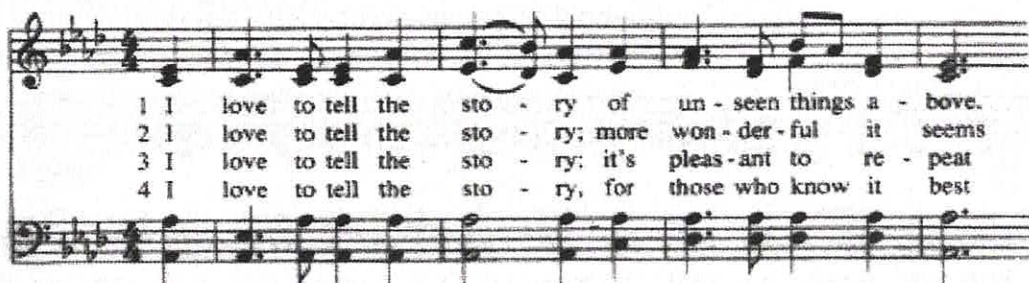
"There Is a Name I Love to Hear"

Page 5

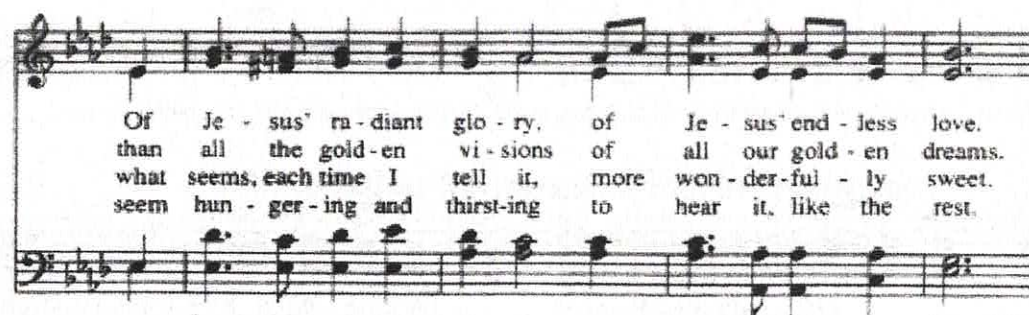
*The Light of Christ goes into the world

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.



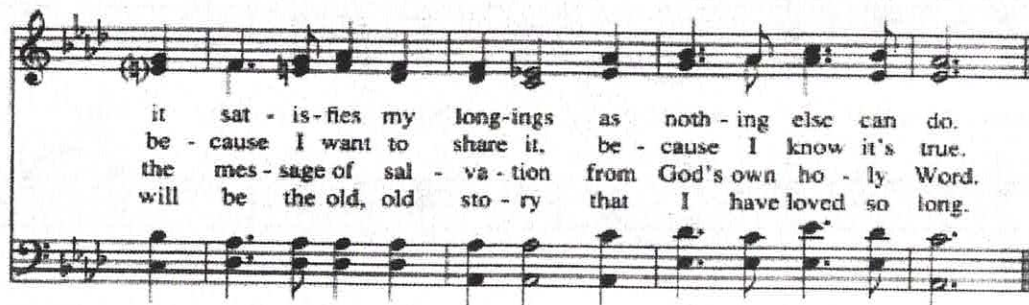
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

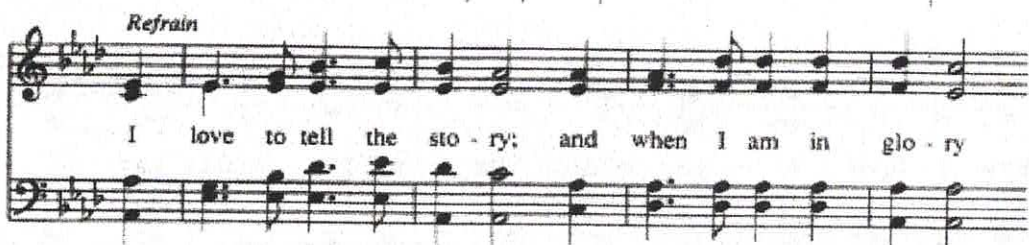


I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

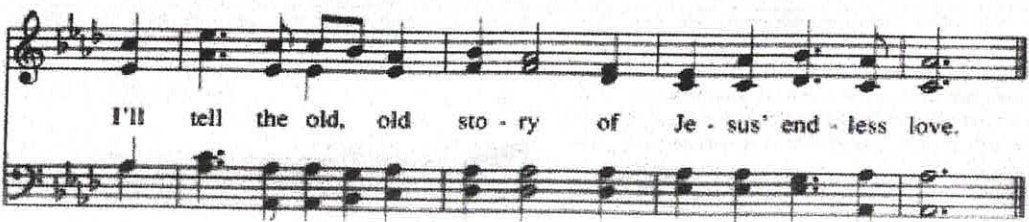


it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry



I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

Tune: HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D. with refrain
 William G. Fitcher, 1869

Born in Clapham, England, Katherine Hankey belonged to the Clapham Society of Evangelists and established a Bible class for girls in London's West End. This hymn is drawn from her somewhat poem on the life of Jesus, which also contains "Tell me the old, old story."

There Is a Name I Love to Hear

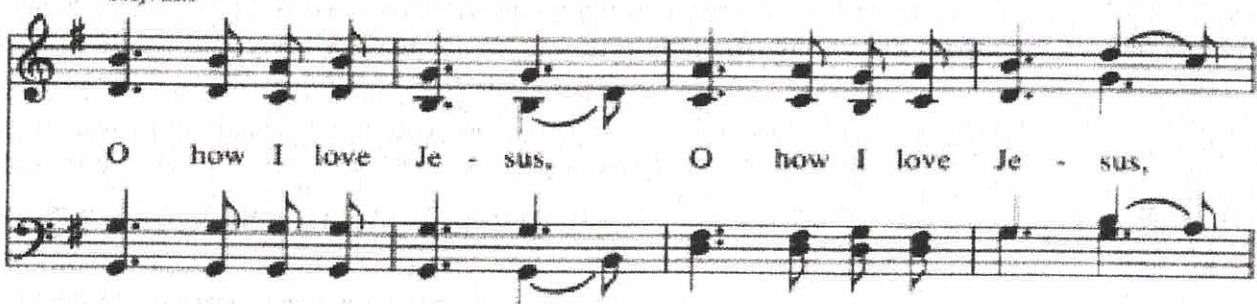
(O How I Love Jesus)

Frederick Whiffeld, 1855; alt.

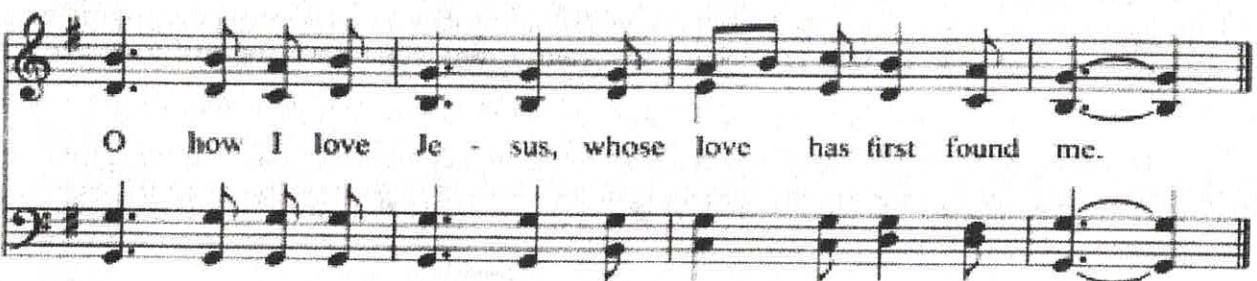

1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
 2 It tells my Sav - ior's love for all; Christ died to set us free;
 3 It bids me serve a - mid the wrath God's peo - ple face each day.



It sounds like mu - sic to my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.
 What - ev - er prob - lems may be - fall, we'll live in dig - ni - ty.
 And sheds a - long life's trou - bled path bright sun - shine on my way.

Refrain


O how I love Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus,



O how I love Je - sus, whose love has first found me.

Frederick Whiffeld was ordained in the Church of England and served several English parishes. This hymn is a combination of Whiffeld's stanzas and a refrain by an unknown author, both set to an existing nineteenth-century tune. The text was published in a leaflet in 1855.

Tune: O HOW I LOVE JESUS C.M. with refrain
 United States, 19th century

*Benediction:

Pastor Jeff Erno

One: People of God, live in harmony with one another

Many: We strive to live peaceably with all

One: Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness

Many: We strive to love God with all of our hearts

One: Clothe yourselves with humility and gentleness

Many: We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Pastor Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Pastor Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Marsha Chapman & Janet Caporale

Children's Message: Pastor Liz Wilson

Music Today by: Susan Joul

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 (restart in Sept.)

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

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

Monday, September 7

Labor Day church off closed

Monday, September 14

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, September 20

1:00 p.m. Historical Marker Dedication

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of August

Birthday

August 2: Joe Tubbs

August 9: Liz Wilson

August 11: Marsha Chapman

August 22: Sarah Apigian

August 25: Jim Makedonsky

Anniversaries

August 7: Julianne & Terry Sutton

August 15: Holly & Mike Graves

August 25: Janet & Doug Caporale

- 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 **August 23 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
- Please remember to sign the black attendance book at the end of each pew.

Spirit-Led Living

I've been told all my life to stop wearing my heart on my sleeve — a saying popularized in William Shakespeare's *Othello*, where the villain asks, "Shall I wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at?" (By the way, a "daw" is a bird in the crow family.)

Shakespeare, though, can't take full credit for the saying. Its origin can be traced to medieval jousts when dashing knights would literally wear the affection of fair maidens in the way of ribbons and other trinkets tied to their armor sleeve.

Today, wearing one's heart is far from romantic. It's viewed as a negative trait of a sensitive soul that's weak. Yet saints like Catherine of Sienna and Thérèse of Lisieux saw sensitive souls as grace-filled gifts to the world.

So, for all you sensitive souls reading this, know that you are strong beyond measure and that the world needs such love and care on display. For that heart on your sleeve is beating with the heart of God, showing others what it truly means to live a spirit-led life.

Spirit-led living is something of a struggle these days as it is marked by authenticity and vulnerability. It also means doing that hardest thing we can ever do — love in all circumstances, especially when you are in the presence of your enemies.

Paul, the very apostle who told us to "rejoice in the Lord always," while imprisoned in Rome, was also the one who urged us to let love be genuine. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

While I've always appreciated Paul's advice, very seldom have I followed it. It's more satisfying (albeit a short-lived satisfaction) to stoop down to the enemies' level. But overcoming evil with evil, is not a marker of a spirit-led life. Rather, vulnerable love is, and such love is disarming in today's world.

There is no preventive to take to ensure we never get hurt, betrayed or rejected in life. I wish there was. But allowing true feelings to be expressed and not buried, allowing tears to fall with those who are hurt, makes for an environment where God can come and transform the gunk into something beautiful. And when our sensitive souls are on display, what we are showing is that we know our worthiness comes from God alone.

I don't know about you, but my heart will always be on my sleeve for all to see. Where is your heart?

Loving God, in a world of raging hate and distrust, may our lives reflect Your goodness and grace. Help us to stop trying to protect our hearts from hurts, but to share them openly. May this day the heart on our sleeves that the world sees be not our own, but Yours. 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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