



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

September 27, 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.)

Ringin of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "One Bread One Body"

Immanuel Choir

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

One: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others.

Many: In our relationships with one another, we seek the mind of Christ Jesus.

One: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

Many: Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

One: Lord, when we are tempted to seek the praise of others, deliver us from pride.

Many: When we fear being overlooked or set aside, grant us the grace to rejoice in your calling.

One: Teach us to walk in the way of meekness, clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience.

Many: Help us to bear with one another and forgive one another, just as you have forgiven us.

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Guiding God, you led our ancestors in faith through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day and a fiery pillar by night. You quenched their thirst and shared manna to satisfy their hunger. We often wish we could see you now in such celestial wonders. Yet we know you are near. We feel your Spirit presence, sustaining us along life's journey. Amen.

***Hymn: "Help Us Accept Each Other"**

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Help Us Accept Each Other

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Fred Kaan, 1974: alt.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.

3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.

4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread.
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

Jesus, in human form, humbled himself before God. God, who is at work in you, invites you to humble self-awareness. Spirit nudges your will in ways that lead to goodness. None of us are alone in this walk of faith. So, hear and believe: In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

The Congregation Prays

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Dave Noffert, 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)

Dave Noffert, 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 131

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 23:1-12

Dave Noffert, Liturgist

Page 574 Old Testament

Pages 196 New Testament

Page 25 New Testament

Sermon:

"Counting Others Better Than Ourselves"

Jeff Erno

*Hymn:

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

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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

Jeff Erno

We offer these our gifts, Holy One, and we also offer our lives in mind, body, and spirit. We endeavor to have the same mind as Christ, that our actions, through faith, might serve you with humility.

*Hymn:

"I Love to Tell the Story"

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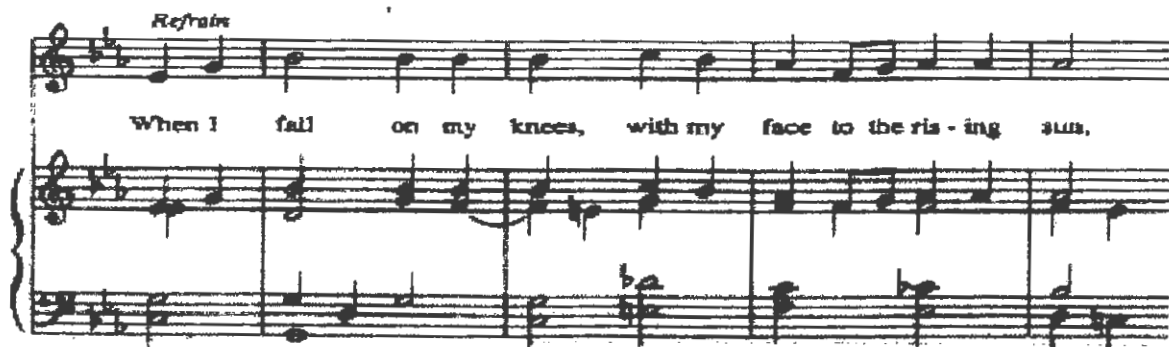
*The Light of Christ goes into the world



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



Refrain
 When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun.



My God, have mer - cy on me.

* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Music: Harmonizations Copyright © 1982 by G.L.A. Publications, Inc.

Time: LET US BREAK BREAD
 10.10. with refrain
 Harm. David Ward, 1983

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1896; arr.

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.

Time: HANKEY 7.8.10.D. with refrain
 William G. Fitcher, 1898

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

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: Go into your lives, listening for the call of God

Many: We go into our community with Christ-like humbleness

One: Give ear to the whispers and shouts of the Holy Spirit

Many: We go in peace and stand firm in courage.

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: Dave Noffert

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

Monday, October 5

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Saturday, October 31

Halloween Party/details to follow

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of September:

Birthdays

September 6: Wilma Martin

September 11: Brook Edwards

September 14: Miles McCatty

September 22: Amy Wilson

September 24: Jamie Martin

September 28: Lilian Schuette

Anniversaries

September 19: Danielle & Justin Willcock

- 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 September 13 was \$970 and September 20 was \$765.75. 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.

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?