



IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

September 6, 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

Pastor Jeff Erno

Special Music

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

One: The night is nearly over; the day is almost here

Many: We lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light

One: We owe no one anything, except to love one another, for love is the fulfillment of the law

Many: We come to worship with hearts awakened, ready to cast off the old and embrace the new

One: Let us awaken to the call of God, to live as people of the day, and to shine God's love in all we do

Many: We worship the One who calls us into the light, to love one another as God has loved us. Amen.

Invocation

Pastor Jeff Erno

Loving God, as we gather in your presence, we seek to put on the armor of light, and to live as your children. Help us cast aside the darkness and embrace the love that fulfills our law. Awaken us to your call, that we may walk in the light of Christ each day. In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen

***Hymn:**

"This Is the Day"

Page 2

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jeff Erno

Hear the good news: where two or three are gathered in God's name, God is there among us. When we seek reconciliation, God is present, offering grace and healing. In Christ, we are forgiven and restored, called to live in peace with one another. Embrace this mercy and know that through God's love, all of us—beloved children of God—are made whole. Amen.

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.

St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

E♭

B♭7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we have not always sought reconciliation as you have called us to do. We have allowed pride and fear to keep us from addressing conflicts with love and grace. Forgive the times we have withheld forgiveness and failed to seek peace. Help us approach others with an open heart, ready to heal and restore relationships. 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

Pastor 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:

Exodus 12:1-3, 12-14

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 5:14-20

Roxanne Todd, Liturgist

Page 58 Old Testament

Page 162 New Testament

Page 4 New Testament

Sermon:

"Christ, the Fulfillment of the Law"

Pastor Jeff Erno

***Hymn:**

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

Insert front & back

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

***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 and reconciling God, we bring these gifts before you as a symbol of our commitment to your work of peace and unity in the world. Bless these gift, O Lord, that they may build bridges where there are divides, bring hope where there is hurt, and extend your love to all. Amen.

***Hymn:**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Page 4

*The Light of Christ goes into the world

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

Copyright © 1923. Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10, with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

New Testament New Testament

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful - ness, God, un - to me!

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.

Mat. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

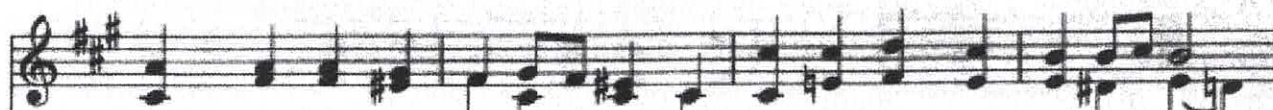
Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



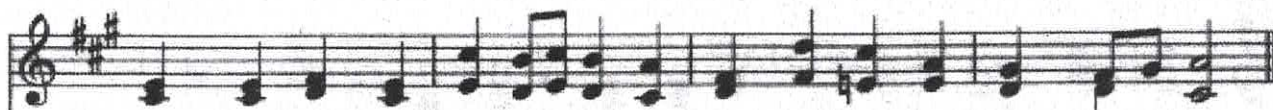
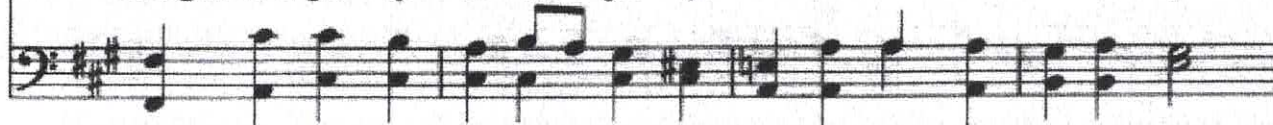
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.



This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1835

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

***Benediction:**

One: Go now with hearts open to reconciliation and peace.

**Many: As Christ is present whenever two or more are gathered in the name of love,
we seek this presence in all relationships**

One: Walk in love, speak the truth with grace, and strive to live in harmony with one another

**Many: The peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guards our hearts
and minds**

One: Go forth to serve in love and unity.

ALL: AMEN

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Pastor Jeff Erno

***Postlude**

We scatter to serve*****

From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. Copyright © 2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Pastor 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

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 September:

Birthdays

September 6: Wilma Martin

September 11: Brook Edwards

September 14: Miles McCatty

September 22: Amy Wilson

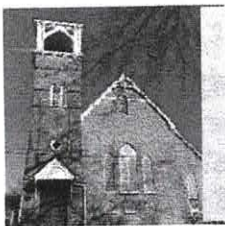
September 24: Jamie Martin

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 August 23 was \$970. 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.



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Remember, Restore, Renew

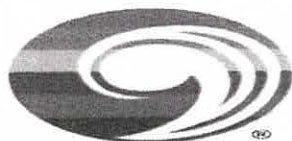
God's people have been through so much. After generations of slavery, they too have undergone the plagues that tormented all of Egypt. Now, God's people are given an opportunity to mark themselves as God's own ones by placing a sign, a mark on the door. The mark they place means not only that they belong to God. It also means that they are prepared to move on, out of the place they and their ancestors have lived for so long. By placing the mark on the door, they indicate that they are ready to move forward into freedom, and a new relationship with God.

Doorways are not a place to linger. On the threshold, the invitation is to pass from one space to another. On this Faith Formation Sunday, what mark are you placing on the doorways of your heart and mind? What sign are you giving to God that you are ready to move forward into a new life?

Faith Formation, the willingness to be educated and grow into our faith, is often focused on children. Many adults seem to believe that they already know everything they need to know in order to live out their faith. But the invitation of Faith Formation Sunday is for everyone who is willing to make a step forward and out, and a step into the freedom and new life which comes from knowing and following God.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, Faith Formation is a door available for you to walk through. Are you a person who never learned the stories of the Bible and your ancestors of faith, or never wrestled with how you might bring the practices of our faith into your daily lives? Or, are you someone who has many years of Sunday School under your belt?

If you are either of those, or somewhere in between, listen to God's call and invitation. Today, put a mark on the door of your heart, a sign to God that you are ready. And then open the door and step through. Whether teaching a class or taking one, whether studying with a couple of companions or a couple dozen, take the opportunity this day to step out, into the adventure of learning, growth, and freedom in God that awaits



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST