

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



*The whole body joined and knit together...
building itself up in love.
— Ephesians 4:16 —*

JANUARY 21, 2024

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

Enthusiastic Service, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus as we proclaim the gospel near and far in word and deed.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNA SCHEIDT

PRELUDE: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Robin Milford

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

All: Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Pastor: Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

All: Let us remember the wonders he has done, his miracles and the judgments he pronounced. For he is the Lord our God. He remembers his covenant forever.

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*

HYMN 498

* *Congregation stands.*

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

STEVE WESTFALL

Leader: Let us use the words of Psalm 5 to guide us in our confession.

People: Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.

Leader: Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

People: O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

Leader: For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you.

People: The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

Leader: You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.

People: But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house, I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

Leader: Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

SONG OF CONFESSION: *Shepherd Me, O Lord*

Psalm 23, adapt. M.H.

Marty Haugen

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in-to life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

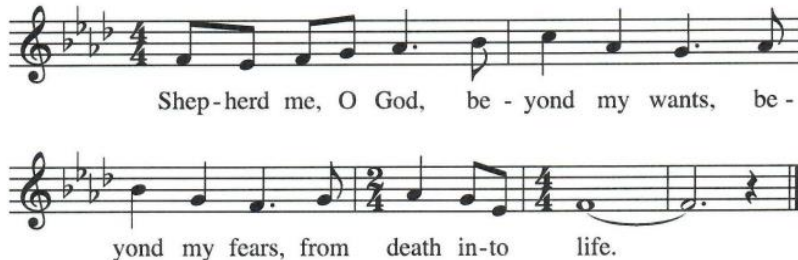
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: If we confess our sins he is able and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

* SONG OF ACCLAMATION (*Shepherd Me, O Lord*)

All: Psalm 23, adapt. M.H.

Marty Haugen



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* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

(Please share God's peace with those around you.)

MISSION FOCUS

KEITH DRAPER, WORLD RELIEF

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Kept*

KENT RICHTER

I'm a child of sin,
Temptations without and my demons within.
Oh, the merciless pull, always losing
To evil that calls within my own choosing.
I cannot escape the fire
Of the ruthlessness of my own desire...
O God, I cry to Your greater will
That knows my demons and loves me still.
Into darkness I walk,
into darkness compelled,
And if You don't hold me I cannot be held...
O God, please hold me!

I'm a man of dust,
And death finally conquers both reason and lust.
Oh, I dream that as death comes to guide me
I'll look o'er my life and see You beside me.
I'll see in my fragile past,
You knew me and loved me from first breath to last.
O God, I leave in Your greater hand
The hope I may love and will understand;
Let me see in my doubt and my dark moral strife
You held and kept me all of my life.
Lord, how You held me...
Lord, how You kept me...

I'm a man of doubt,
So burdened with questions I can't live without.
Oh, the weight of these forced, murky choices
Of too many gods with too many voices.
Who can know where to hope
Where touted scholars and blind prophets grope?
O God, I cry to Your greater word
To light my path at the edge of th' absurd.
Guard the truths that I love in the lies I accept,
For if you don't keep me I cannot be kept...
O God, please keep me!

* DOXOLOGY

Howard Whitaker

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him all crea - tures here be -
low. Praise Him a - bove, ye Heav'n - ly host; praise Fath - er,
Son, and Hol - ly Ghost! A - men.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

(Children 3 years through 5th grade go downstairs to continue their worship.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

DAN BALZER

* SONG: *Still, My Soul Be Still*

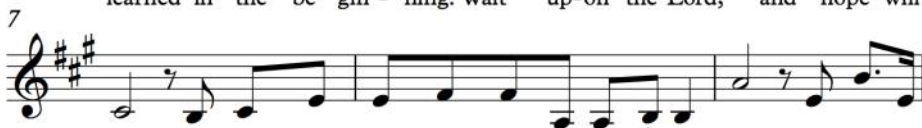
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend



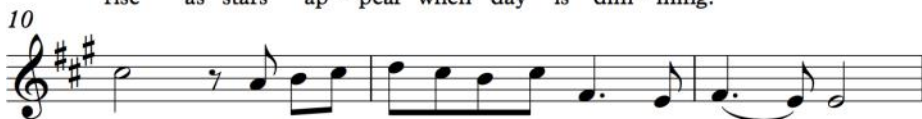
1. Still, my soul, be still and do not fear though winds of
2. Still, my soul, be still; do not be moved by less - er
3. Still, my soul, be still; do not for-sake the truth you



change may rage to mor - row. God is at your side; no long - er
lights and fleet - ing shad - ows. Hold in to His ways, with shield of
learned in the be gin - ning. Wait up-on the Lord, and hope will



dread the fires of un - ex - pect - ed sor - row. God, You are my
faith a - gainst temp - ta - tion's flam - ing ar - rows.
rise as stars ap - pear when day is dim - ming.



God, and I will trust in You and not be shak - en.



Lord of peace, re - new a stead - fast



spir - it with - in me to rest in You a - lone.

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WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.)

READERS: JERRY BLACKSTONE AND ABBOTT KLASSEN

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 80:1-7*

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
³ Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
⁴ How long, Lord God Almighty,
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.
⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *John 10:1-10*

¹ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *I Want to Walk as a Child of Light*

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the
light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Zak Reynolds, Kent Richter, Lauren Mathues, Immanuel Orchestra

Thanks to Marilyn Sinclair for making our beautiful new altar cloth.

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, elder **Ron Netzel** will be available near the platform.

Plan to stay after worship for an International Cafe gathering with World Relief. World Relief is actively helping welcome refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers in Chicagoland—a particular challenge just now. Come, hear all about it while having a light lunch brought to you by the missions team, noon - 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open
Youth Group

This Week

Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study (*childcare*)
Food Pantry open

Coming

The Immanuel college crew will meet at the Bretsens' home (502 W. Indiana St., Wheaton) for dinner tonight. Contact Cindy at bretsen@sbcglobal.net if you plan to attend.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Plan to be here during the education hour (9:30) on Sunday, February 4, for the annual meeting. We'll have reports from staffers and various ministries to read ahead of time.

SAVE THE DATE: *This summer we will host VBS the week of June 10-15, 2024.*

Candidates for Elder

Larry Funck grew up in a Christian family. He says, “My first step of faith occurred at an early age in response, with my grandmother’s encouragement, to a traditional altar call. As an adult my faith has been deepened largely by my appreciation of the magnificence of God’s creative power revealed by modern science.” At Immanuel Larry has participated on the finance committee and in the choir. As an elder he hopes to assist the spiritual growth of this local body of believers.

Carl Pickard can’t remember a time when he hasn’t known Jesus as Lord and Savior: “One of my earliest recollections of actual proactive understanding of what that means was reading and embracing Catherine Marshall’s *A Man Called Peter*. My upbringing was a mosaic of Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, and interdenominational influence. At Gordon College I embraced the Presbyterian ecumen and the Westminster Confession.” Carl and Judy joined Immanuel in 1998. Since then he has served several terms as Ruling Elder, as Interim Moderator between the pastorates of Mateen and George, on Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and as Chairman of Personnel Committee. He and Judy have been active volunteers and leaders at the food pantry since its inception in April 2012. He says, “My only goal if elected to another term as elder is to serve the IPC family and help to provide direction and counsel as needed.”

Cathy Sayer values many characteristics of Immanuel’s life and worship, especially the strong bonds wrought through inter-generational family life, the glorification of God through the sharing of artistic gifts, and the love of Christ expressed in the broader community through the Food Pantry and partnerships with other faith-based service efforts. Cathy has been a member of Immanuel since December 2021. She serves on the Adult Education Committee, has co-taught an Adult Ed class, has served as substitute teacher for the Tuesday women’s Bible study, assists monthly with Children in Worship, and volunteers at the food pantry on Tuesdays. Her favorite post-retirement occupation is spending time with her four children and five grandchildren; she also enjoys spending time in nature, reading, journaling, puzzling, watching good movies, and occasionally sewing.

Candidates for Deacon

Kathy Wetters has been a member since 2021. She and her husband, Brian, were impressed from their first visit by the traditional Bible-based worship service and genuine warmth of the congregation. They enjoy being greeters on the third Sunday each month, attending Prime Timers, and volunteering on Sundays and Tuesdays at the food pantry. The family moved to Geneva in 2000 and currently operate an in-home care agency in Batavia. Visiting their young grandchildren in Oklahoma several times per year brings them great joy.

Sharon Wolgemuth has been a member of IPC since November 2013. She and her husband, Ken, were initially drawn to Immanuel because they loved the worship, the music, and the traditional hymns. They enjoy being part of a small group that started soon after their membership class. Sharon serves as part of the Mission Team, helping to put together the International Cafes several times a year. She has been a part of Vacation Bible School. She works in the nursery and attends the Women’s Bible Study and Prime Timers. She has recently served as a Stephen Minister. The Wolgemuths have four daughters and seven granddaughters. They consider it a highlight of their week that they get to be the homeschool teachers of their two youngest granddaughters on Thursdays.

ELDERS

Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Bill France, Sarah Holman,
Ron Netzel, Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth

DEACONS

Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Seth Ehorn, Debby France, Ron Haydon, Dee Netzel,
Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Amy Treier, Becky Williams

STAFF

George A. Garrison: Senior Pastor, Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life;
Mary Hopper, Minister of Music: Annika Durbin, Children's Minister;
Anna and Scott Scheidt, Ministers to Youth;
Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Bev Burch, Leon Sinclair, Angela Wisdom, Annette LaPlaca