

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

# Immanuel

## Presbyterian Church



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

MARCH 3, 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

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PRELUDE: *The Power of the Cross*

Arr. Koerts  
BETH BAUER

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us worship God, for his love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Let us praise God, for anyone in Christ is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold the new has come.

**All: We know that he died for us, that we who live should no longer live for ourselves, but for him who died and rose again on our behalf.**

Pastor: Thanks be to God. Let us worship him together.

### \* INVOCATION

\* OPENING HYMN: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (v. 3 men, v. 4 women)

HYMN 30

## WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Before the Lord, all hearts are open.

**People: We need forgiveness for our secret sins, our habitual sins, our unnoticed sins.**

Leader: We need forgiveness for our sins of thought, word, and deed, and for all that we have left undone.

**All: For our sins against ourselves, our sins against others, our sins against God, all where we have fallen short of the glory of God and not done what he has called to do; we desperately need his forgiveness and mercy.**

Adapted from *The Open Gate* by David Adams

### SONG OF CONFESSION: *Kyrie*

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Cantor and the All, with the lyrics "Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son." and "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." respectively. The second staff is for the Cantor and the All, with the lyrics "Chri - ste e - le - i - son." and "Chri - ste e - le - i - son." respectively. The third staff is for the Cantor and the All, with the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." and "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." respectively. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes.

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### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Colossians 1:21-22*)

Leader: And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him.

\* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Please stand)

Franz Schubert  
(Communion book, p. 20)

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

\* APOSTLES' CREED

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried;  
He descended into hell,  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic\* Church;  
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\* universal*

\* 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.)*

## **WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *The Yearning*

Craig Courtney  
Joel and Karin Buursma

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down  
by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness  
hide and in the shades of death abide,  
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One,  
the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,  
and by His death for sin atoned,  
to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait  
the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased  
and we shall see the One who placed within  
our hearts the yearning.

(Children may return to their seats.)

\* SONG: *His Mercy Is More*

Boswell/Papa



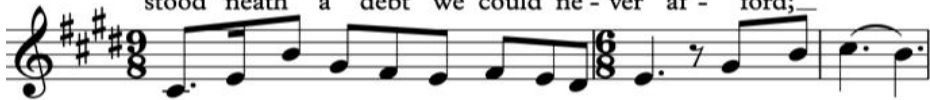
1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done; Om -  
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam; What  
3. What rich - es of kind - ness He la - vished on us; His



ni - sient, all know - ing, He counts not their sum. Thrown  
Fa - ther, so ten - der, is call - ing us home. He  
blood was the pay - ment, His life was the cost. We



in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore; Our  
wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor; -  
stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver af - ford; -



sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord!



His mer - cy is more \_\_\_\_\_



Stron - ger than dark - ness, new ev' - ry morn; Our



sins they are ma - ny, His mer - cy is more.

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## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: BRIAN AND KATHY WETTERS

\* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 119:33-40*

- <sup>33</sup> Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,  
that I may follow it to the end.  
<sup>34</sup> Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.  
<sup>35</sup> Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.  
<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart toward your statutes  
and not toward selfish gain.  
<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  
preserve my life according to your word.  
<sup>38</sup> Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.  
<sup>39</sup> Take away the disgrace I dread,  
for your laws are good.  
<sup>40</sup> How I long for your precepts!  
In your righteousness preserve my life.

\* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES: *2 Timothy 3:14-17, Luke 24:25-27*

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. NIV

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION: *Suffering for the Sake of Scripture*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Please **approach the tables from the center aisles**, and we ask that you **return to your seats on the outside aisles**.

*If you would rather not go to the front, please feel free to remain seated.  
Tell an usher if you would like to be served in your seat.*

*If you would like to be seated at the lower tables,  
just take a seat in the front row while you wait for openings at those tables.*

*If you prefer to be served by an elder who is wearing a face mask and gloves  
please indicate that to the usher at the front of the sanctuary.*

*During Communion Priscilla Heidebrecht and Andy LePeau will be available  
on the stair landings at the back of the sanctuary if you would like prayer.*

(Times of singing and silence.)

(Communion music is found in the Communion song book, unless otherwise noted.)

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured	page 32
Humbly I Adore Thee	page 22
God to Enfold You	page 18
How Beautiful ( <i>piano</i> ) arr. Larson	
Come with Us	page 8



## WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

HYMN 460

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE: *Amazing Grace*

arr. Schraeder

### Today

**Thanks to our musicians:** Mary Hopper, Beth Bauer, Joel and Karin Buursma

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

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.      **Food Pantry open**

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday      9:30 - 11:00 a.m.      **Women's Bible Study** (*childcare*)  
                  11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.      **Food Pantry open**

Wednesday      9:30 - 11:00 a.m.      **Mothering Together** (*childcare*)

Friday      7:00 p.m.      **Taize**

### LENT/EASTER

Friday, March 8	7:00 p.m.	Taize
Friday, March 15	7:00 p.m.	Taize
Maundy Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Seder Supper
Good Friday	7:00 p.m.	Tenebrae
<b>Easter</b>	9:00 a.m.	Brunch
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

## **Prayers during Communion**

### ***Prayer to begin a new life in Christ***

Dear God, I recognize Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for the sins of your people. I want to recognize now that he came to earth to die for *my* sins. I confess that I am a sinner in need of your grace and the saving blood of Christ. Please forgive me of my sins through the perfect sacrifice of your Son who died in my place. Jesus, come into my heart and change me from the inside out. Help me to truly repent from my previous way of living without you, and help me to surrender to your rule over my life as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Spirit that reveals to me the new life that I have in Christ and empowers me to walk in obedience to your truth and will for me. Amen.

### ***Prayer for those struggling with sin***

Merciful God, I am thankful that as your child I am not defined by my sin. Help me to walk in obedience to you in all areas of my life. Forgive me for the particular area(s) where I still succumb to temptation and disobey you. Help me to remember that in every area where I am tempted, your word promises that you will provide a way out of those temptations. Fill me with your Spirit, which working in me can do what I cannot do on my own. Help me to walk in obedience to your commands and also delight in them and your guiding words of truth. Please give me the courage to reach out to others in the body of Christ for strength and support when I am especially vulnerable. Amen.

### ***Prayer for those wrestling with doubts and fears***

Gracious God, even as your child I wrestle with the fact that your will for me is perfect and that you will supply all of my needs. Help me to set my mind on the truths of your word, and guard my heart when the enemy clouds my mind and heart with fear and doubt. Help me to rest in the peace and security of being your child, and by your Spirit testify with my spirit that I am yours when feelings tell me otherwise. Remind me of your love and delight in me as your child. Amen.

### ***Prayer for those seeking freedom from their past***

Almighty God, you have the power to set us free from the sins and entanglements of our past. Release me from the shackles of my past that I carry that you have released me from. Forgive me for holding my past against me in the ways that you do not, and enable me to grasp what it is for you to see me in the perfect righteousness of your Son, both now and forever. May your Spirit, the Spirit of liberty, liberate me from any thought or feeling that belies the fact that I am completely forgiven, or free to live the new life in Christ I have as your new creation. Amen.

## THE SCOT'S FORM OF COMMUNION

Many of the early Reformation churches practiced communion in this way: as the congregation sang, the people came in turns to a table set at the front of the sanctuary or often to tables set in the aisles. There they were seated and served, and then returned singing to their places in the congregation.

The early Scottish Presbyterians felt strongly that their manner of partaking of the Lord's Supper should clearly symbolize the truth that the Risen Christ is host to his redeemed people at his covenant meal; a spiritual meal where believers are nourished by the life of Christ provided by his finished work of redemption. Thus, for example, Samuel Rutherford wrote that "they should sit, as banqueters, at one table with our King, and eat and drink..." And George Gillespie said, "We ought to come to the table of the Lord to receive the mystical food in the sacrament, as well as we come to our ordinary table for our ordinary food." And in Holland, years later, Abraham Kuyper expressed his opinion that the Lord's Supper should be eaten from a table, saying "Jesus spreads a feast for his friends, and as a King invites his people to his table."

For several years we in our congregation have used this form largely for the same reasons as expressed by our Reformed and Presbyterian predecessors and also have discovered reasons in our experience to value this observance of the Sacrament. The form demands a little more from us than the modern tradition of being served at our places in the congregation. As we overcome our nervousness about going forward we find that that very act impresses upon us the reality of our personal response to our Lord's invitation to receive his grace. Sitting with others at this table; singing and watching while others go forward may likewise impress upon us the reality of our fellowship and the joy of seeing others respond to and meet our Lord in his love.

## NOTICE TO FAMILIES

In accord with our practice of the Lord's Supper, children and adults who have not yet appeared before the elders to profess their faith in Christ are asked to refrain from partaking in the communion. It is our desire that they look forward gladly to the day when they take their first communion as a significant step in their spiritual growth and acceptance of the responsibilities of church membership. In the meantime, we want to provide ways in which they may come to understand the meaning of the sacrament and also feel that they are significant persons in the covenant family of God. We would like to invite those people to come forward to the Table and be seated with us. The elder who serves the elements will briefly offer prayer for them. So that the elders may know whom at the Table to pray for in this way, we would suggest folding their hands on the Table. The parents of children may also help to indicate such children to the elders. We hope this custom will encourage adults and children as they grow and prepare for the time when they are ready to profess Christ in church membership.

ELDERS

Katherine Anderson (*Clerk of Session*), Bill France, Larry Funck, Sarah Holman,  
Ron Netzel, Carl Pickard, Sheroll Ritchie, Cathy Sayer, Steve Westfall

DEACONS

Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Seth Ehorn (*Chair*), Debby France, Ron Haydon,  
Tom Nguyen, Joel Rose, Amy Treier, Kathy Wetters, Sharon Wolgemuth

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