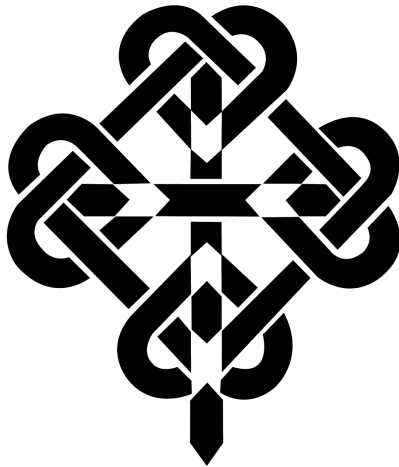


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

Immanuel

Presbyterian Church



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

APRIL 23, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: *Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose* (Vater unser) Chorale Melody/J. Zimmerman
Morning Has Broken Gaelic Melody/T. Wilhelmi

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: *The Risen Christ*

Keith Getty/Phil Madeira

(Congregation sings.)



O breath of God come fill this place, Re - vive our
hearts to know Your grace, And from our slum - ber
make us rise, That we may know the ri - sen Christ.

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

RON NETZEL

Leader: Come, let us worship our God,

All: **Who brings us salvation,**

Leader: Who supplies us strength,

All: **Who hears our songs of gratitude,**

Leader: Who accepts our joyful praise.

All: **His greatness astounds us; let us praise the Lord and sing for joy!**

* INVOCATION

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

DAN BALZER

Leader: We come to you, Lord, for you alone can heal and restore us.

All: We are not able to heal ourselves,

Leader: We are not able to forgive ourselves,

All: We are not able to restore ourselves,

Leader: We are not able to sanctify ourselves,

All: We are not able to satisfy ourselves.

Leader: We come to you, Lord, for you alone can make us whole.

Leader: Lord of Light, enter our past, dispel the works of darkness,

All: Destroy the deeds of evil, defeat the thoughts of darkness.

Leader: Enter the recording room of our memories,

All: Enter the dark room of guilt and shame,

Leader: Enter the secret room of sins hidden or forgotten.

**All: Come, Lord of Light, and forgive.
Come, Lord of Love, and set us free.
Come and scatter our darkness.
Come, draw us closer to you.**

(adapted from *The Open Gate* by David Adam)

What pa-tience would wait as we con-stant-ly roam: What
 Fa-ther, so ten-der is call-ing us home. He
 wel-comes the weak-est, the vil-est, the poor; Our
 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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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

**All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was
 in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
 Amen, amen.**

* 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.)

RECOGNITION OF COLLEGE GRADUATES

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Getty/Larson
IMMANUEL CHOIR

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to him belong.
Who holds our days within his hand?
What comes apart from his command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ in which we stand.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is his grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us night
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal.
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with him!
There we will rise to meet the Lord.
Then sin and death will be destroyed.
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forever more.

* DOXOLOGY

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise Him all creatures here below;
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

SHEROLL RITCHIE

* HYMN: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

HYMN 281

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: JESS AND CHRIS KERSLAKE

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

Leviticus 25:39-46

³⁹“If your brother among you becomes destitute and sells himself to you, you must not force him to do slave labor. ⁴⁰Let him stay with you as a hired worker or temporary resident; he may work for you until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹Then he and his children are to be released from you, and he may return to his clan and his ancestral property. ⁴²They are not to be sold as slaves, because they are my servants that I brought out of the land of Egypt. ⁴³You are not to rule over them harshly but fear your God. ⁴⁴Your male and female slaves are to be from the nations around you; you may purchase male and female slaves. ⁴⁵You may also purchase them from the aliens residing with you, or from their families living among you—those born in your land. These may become your property. ⁴⁶You may leave them to your sons after you to inherit as property; you can make them slaves for life. But concerning your brothers, the Israelites, you must not rule over one another harshly.”^{CSB}

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Philemon 1-25

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. ²² One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers. ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. NRSV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Incongruous Grace in the Letter to Philemon*

SETH EHORN

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

HYMN 275

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

Thank you to Seth Ehorn for preaching today while Pastor George is away.

Seth currently serves as chairperson for the deacons and teaches Bible at Wheaton College. He and his wife, Rachel, are members of Immanuel, attending with their children, Miles and Maddie. Millie, the dog, stays home.

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, John Zimmerman, Immanuel choir

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

Be sure to visit the Bake Sale this morning and support our Youth Mission Fund.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open

Youth Group

This Week

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.

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

7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study (childcare)

Food Pantry open

Men's Book Group

In Immanuel and Beyond

Immanuel hosts our Rivers & Lakes Presbytery on April 28-29, including a worship service at 7 p.m., Friday evening, April 28, which is open to everyone who'd like to attend. Come on out to join in worship with elders and observers from other midwest EPC churches. For any who are interested, you are also welcome to attend a seminar on "Trauma, Abuse, and Church Response" at 3 p.m. on Friday.

International Cafe returns on Sunday, April 30, approximately noon-1:00 p.m., with reports on recent trips to Cambodia (Terra Vincent) and Rwanda (Diane Jerdan). Come on downstairs after worship to find out what's happening around the world and to share a light lunch of ethnic foods.

Congratulations to our seniors about to finish college! All of the following except Bella Anderson, who is graduating from Taylor University, are graduating from Wheaton on May 7.

Bella Anderson, BA in Youth Ministry and Biblical Literature

Sophie Anderson, BS in Chemistry

Samantha Burton, BA in Bible and Theology and a minor in Environmental Science

Emma Green, BA in Communication (Rhetoric)

Timothy Holman, BA in Composition

Jackie McLaughlin, BA in International Relations with Spanish minor

Amelia Miller, BA in Applied Mathematics and BA in Economics

Claire Miller, BA in Biblical & Theological Studies and Communication
(Rhetoric and Culture)

Anna Personius, BA in Art History

Ian Rose, BA in Biblical & Theological Studies and BS in Computer Science

Susannah Steele, BA in Interpersonal Communication



VBS 2023: Will you join us? VBS will be the week of June 26-30, Mon through Friday 9am-12pm.

Annika is still recruiting for the following roles:

- Registration/Check-in (Lead and assistants)
- Nursery (for Volunteers' kids)
- Crew Leaders (need 4-5 more)
- Photography
- Decorating - planning and prep

Please reach out to Annika ASAP if you are willing to invest your time in our IPC kids this summer! annikadurbin@gmail.com

NOTES

NOTES

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 Ehom (Chair), Debby France, Ron Haydon, Dee Netzel,
Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Joel Rose, Amy Treier, Rebecca Williams*

STAFF

*George A. Garrison, Senior Pastor; Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life;
Alva Steffler, Minister of Congregational Care; 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

Leon Sinclair, Angela Wisdom, Annette LaPlaca