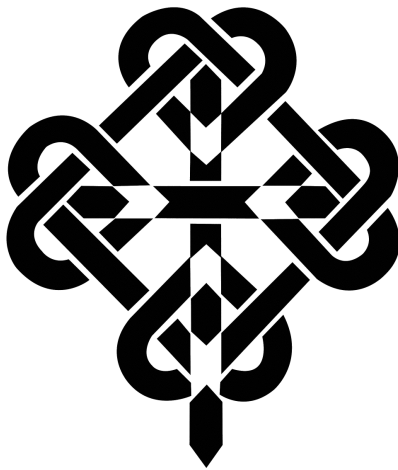


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

# Immanuel Presbyterian Church



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

APRIL 30, 2023

## 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.

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: *O Breath of God*

(Congregation sings.)

The musical score is written on three staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is as follows:

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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CCLI#294262

\* *Congregation stands.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O God, your name be praised, for in Jesus Christ you come to visit and redeem your people.

**All: Help us to understand Christ's rule, strongest among the exiled, among the victims, among the hurt and mourning.**

Pastor: Help us to understand Christ's triumph revealed when love speaks the healing and freeing word. Help us to understand glory revealed on a cross.

**All: Then may we sing with full joy, Rejoice! Rejoice! Blessed is Emmanuel who comes in God's name to ransom our captive hearts.**

\* INVOCATION

\* OPENING HYMN: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

HYMN 296

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE**

CALL TO CONFESSION

STEVE WESTFALL

Leader: Let us approach our God who opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**People: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

Leader: Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**People: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**

Leader: Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

**People: There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbor?**

Leader: For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

What love could re mem - ber no wrongs we have done; Om -  
 ni - cient, all know - ing He counts not their sum. Thrown  
 in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore; 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.

@2016 Getty Music Songs, Messenger Hymns  
 and Love Your Enemies Publishing  
 CCLI#294262

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The promise of God is greater than our sinfulness: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Brothers and sisters, rest in in this good news – in Jesus Christ we stand forgiven. Amen.

\* ACCLAMATION: (*Please stand.*)

**All: Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. 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.)*

# WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR KOEN JASON ROLLAND

BAROCHA

Michael Card



The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be gracious to you. The Lord make His face shine up - on you, and give you peace, Lord turn His face to - ward you, and give you peace, We wel - come you to Im - man - u - el. We pledge to raise you; may you know well God's per - fect peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er. and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er. God's per - fect peace, God's per - fect peace for - ev - er.

*(Children 3 years old through 5th grade are dismissed to continue their worship downstairs.)*

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Christ Is Alive*

Handbell Ensemble

\* 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!**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

SARAH HOLMAN



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You\_ to re-ceive the food of Your  
 2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu  
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your

4



Ho - ly Word. Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us;\_ shape and  
 mil - i - ty.\_ Test our thoughts and our at - ti tudes; in the  
 plans for us.\_ Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will

7



fash - ion us\_ in Your liRe---ness; That the light of Christ might be  
 ra - di ance\_ of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our  
 ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. and by grace we'll stand on Your

10



seen to day\_ in our acts of love and our deeds of\_ faith.  
 eyes to see\_ Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.  
 prom - is - es;\_ And by faith we'll walk as You walk with\_ us.

13



Speak, O Lord and ful - fill in us\_ all Your  
 Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail;\_ Let their  
 Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built,\_ and the

15



pur - pos - es\_ for Your glo---ry.  
 truth pre - vail\_ o - ver un - be - lief.  
 earth is filled\_ with Your glo - ry.

## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: JOAN SHEESLEY AND SUE LUNDIN

\* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 43:18-25*

- <sup>18</sup> “Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild beasts will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
that they might declare my praise.
- <sup>22</sup> “Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;  
but you have been weary of me, O Israel!  
<sup>23</sup> You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings,  
or honored me with your sacrifices.  
I have not burdened you with offerings,  
or wearied you with frankincense.  
<sup>24</sup> You have not bought me sweet cane with money,  
or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.  
But you have burdened me with your sins;  
you have wearied me with your iniquities.
- <sup>25</sup> “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.”

\* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Mark 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” <sup>8</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit

that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” <sup>12</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Receiving Far More than One Asked For or Imagined*

JIM WILHOIT

**WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE**

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power*

HYMN 300

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE



## TODAY

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, Ken Wolgemuth is available at the front after the service.

**Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Jim Wilhoit** for opening God's Word for us today. Jim is a teaching elder in the EPC. He is retired from teaching Spiritual Formation and Ministry. He is currently teaching Adult Education at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. He and Carol are long-time members of Immanuel.

**Sign up today for Parents' Night Out:** Friday, May 12, 5:30—8:00 p.m. Your sign-up helps Anna know how to plan for caretakers.

**Stay after worship for our International Cafe** in the lower level. We will hear reports on recent trips to Cambodia (Terra Vincent) and Rwanda (Diane Jerdan). Come on downstairs to find out what's happening around the world and to share a light lunch of ethnic foods.

**Thanks to our musicians:** Mary Hopper, Zak Reynolds, Handbell Ensemble

**Thanks also to our technical team.**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry**

**Youth Group at the Ministry House**

## 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**

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.

**Mom Talk** (childcare)

Saturday

9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

**Visitation with Steffler family**

**Memorial Service for Pastor Alva**

(lunch to follow)

## Why do we baptize infants?

In our culture today, we are not accustomed to thinking of the head of a household as deciding the spiritual commitments of all its dependent members. However, the biblical perspective is that the head of a household represents the family to God and commits them to his worship. The representative role of heads of households has great Scriptural precedent and rich implications in both the Old and New Testaments. (cf Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 11:7)

Does the requirement of faith for salvation preclude the possibility of administering a covenant sign to children of believers? It did not in the Old Testament practice of circumcision, and the New Testament tells us why. The apostle Paul says in the book of Romans that circumcision was a “seal” as well as a “sign” of the righteousness that Abraham had by faith (Rom 4:11).

The seal acted as a visible pledge by the author to honor what He had covenanted to do in a document when the conditions it described were met. Like the seal of a document, the seal of circumcision could be applied long before the recipients of promised and signified blessing met the conditions of the covenant.

The Apostle Paul was very explicit about the continuation of the Abrahamic covenant and proclaimed, “Those who believe are children of Abraham” (Gal. 3:7). He goes on to say that the law of Moses “does not set aside the covenant previously established by God. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal.3:17,29). Since the shedding of Christ’s blood to remove our sin was prefigured by circumcision, baptism with water has become the sign of the washing away of our sin (cf. Acts 22:6; 16:1; I Cor. 6:11; Heb. 9:14). While the sign of the covenant changes, the features of the covenant do not.

In addition to baptism as the new sign and seal of God’s covenant promise, we also feel there is other Scriptural evidence to embrace this sacrament for infants. If the apostles had chosen to exclude infants from baptism, such an important change would have been recorded. The absence of a scriptural command to prohibit administering the sign of the covenant to children after two thousand years of observing such a practice weighs significantly against the view that the apostles wanted only those who were able to profess their faith to be baptized. In fact, when we read the New Testament accounts of baptism, every person identified as having a household present at his or her conversion also had the entire household baptized.

Finally, the devotion of the parents who present their children for baptism places each child in a privileged position both to hear and to understand the truths of the Gospel. The parents together with the covenant community of the church provide spiritual nurture and instruction for the child. The child is surrounded and embraced by the testimony of Christ at every turn in life. In this atmosphere, faith generally germinates and matures so that it is possible, even common, for the children of Christian parents never to know a day that they do not believe that Jesus is their Savior and Lord. Such covenantal growth of a child is, in fact, *the normal Christian life* that God intends for his people based on the Biblical account of his covenant with them throughout history. Thus we consider it a privilege to baptize **Koen Jason Rolland** today.

Adapted from *Why Do We Baptize Infants*  
by Bryan Chapell

## 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*