

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

# Immanuel

## Presbyterian Church



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

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

AUGUST 6, 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.

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNIKA DURBIN

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: My tongue shall speak out the praises of the Lord, and all creatures shall bless his holy name forever and ever.

**All: We shall declare your mighty work with awe and tell of your great deeds. We shall recite the story of your abounding goodness and sing of your righteousness with joy.**

Pastor: For the Lord is righteous in all his ways, unchanging in all he does; very near is the Lord to those who call to him in singleness of heart.

**All: He hears our cry and saves us. He fulfills our desires if only we fear him.**

Pastor: The Lord watches over all who love him. Let us sing his praises together.

\* INVOCATION

\* OPENING SONG: *Come, Thou Almighty King*

HYMN 101

## WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to our holy and gracious God with the words of Psalm 32.

**People: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

Leader:: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**People: While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.**

Leader: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

**People: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Leader: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**People: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Be comforted and hear the good tidings of the gospel: If any one has sinned, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Believe the gospel and live in peace. Amen.

\* 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.**

\* NICENE CREED

**All: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light  
very God of very God,  
begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead;  
and the life of the world to come. 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

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *None Other Lamb*

Craig Courtney  
text by Christina Rossetti  
JOEL AND KARIN BUURSMAN

None other Lamb, none other Name,  
None other hope in heav'n or earth or sea,  
None other hiding place from guilt and shame,  
None beside Thee.

Lord, Thou art life, though I be dead;  
Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be:  
Nor heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head,  
Nor home, but Thee.  
None other Lamb.

My faith burns low, my hope burns low,  
Only my heart's desire cries out in me,  
By the deep thunder of its want and woe,  
Cries out to Thee.

DIACONAL PRAYER

SETH EHORN

## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

CHORUS: *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

*(Children come forward.)*

The musical score is written for a choir in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Tell me the sto-ries of Je - sus, Just as his fol-low ers heard." The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Les-sons he taught his di - sci - ples, Writ-ten for us in His Word." The score includes a measure rest of 5 measures at the beginning of the second system.

PARABLE READING

ERIC DURBIN

*(Children return to their seats.)*

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 18:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

<sup>4</sup> “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” NIV

MEDITATION: *God’s Favor*

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.*

*Please feel free to partake of the elements as you feel led.*

*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 **Margaret Lambka and Doug Anderson** 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.)*

At the Lamb’s High Feast (musical interlude)	page 3
Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus	page 8

## WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

HYMN 460

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

### Scots' Form of Communion

The early Scottish Presbyterians felt strongly that their manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper should clearly symbolize the truth that the Risen Christ is host to his redeemed people at this covenant meal. Samuel Rutherford wrote that "they should sit, as banqueters, at one table with our King, and eat and drink..." 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 have used this form largely for the same reasons expressed by our Presbyterian predecessors and also have discovered reasons in our own experience to value this observance of the Sacrament. The form demands a little more from us than the tradition of being served at our places in the congregation. As we overcome our nervousness about going forward we find that the very act impresses upon us the reality of our personal response to our Lord's invitation to receive his grace. Sitting with others at his table, singing and watching others go forward impresses upon us the reality of our fellowship and the joy of seeing others meet our Lord in his love.

**Notice to Families:** In accord with our practice of the Lord's Supper, children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ to the elders are asked to refrain from partaking in the communion. We desire that such children look forward gladly to the day when they take their first communion as a significant step in their spiritual growth. In the meantime, we want to provide ways they may grow to understand the meaning of the sacrament and also feel that though young, they are significant persons in the covenant family of God. So we invite those children to come forward to the Table and be seated with their parents. The elder who serves the elements to the parents will briefly offer prayer for the child. So that the elders may know which children to pray for in this way, we suggest that the children not taking communion fold their hands on the Table. We hope this custom will encourage parents as they help their children grow in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" and prepare for the time when they are ready to profess Christ and take communion.



**TODAY**

**Thanks to our musicians:** Ed Zimmerman, Eric Durbin, John Zimmerman, Joel and Karin Buursma

**If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, Steve Westfall** will be available near the platform.

**Stay after worship today to get a report from our teens** on their recent mission to Mexico, noon-ish to 12:40.

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

**Food Pantry open**  
**Youth Group Swimming**  
(meet at Centennial Beach in Naperville)

**THIS WEEK**

Tuesday 11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.  
Thursday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open**  
**Bible Study at Terra's**

**In Immanuel and Beyond**

Sunday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

**Sign-Along on the Lawn**

Saturday, August 26, 10:00 a.m.

**PrimeTimers** *This Is My Story* with Harold and Jeanette Myra  
(*Come with new ideas for our meetings as we go forward.*)

**Children's Ministry 2023-2024** - Planning is underway for the upcoming year of children's ministry! Would you be willing to pray about joining our teams in some capacity?

The following roles are open for you to consider:

**Sunday School hour:**

**1 Teacher** in PreK & Kindergarten Class (No Prep, serve every 3 weeks)

**1 Teacher** in 1st & 2nd Gr Class (Some prep, serve every 3 weeks)

**Worship hour:**

**1 Worship Leader** in Prek & K class (Prep required, serve 1 Sunday a month)

**1 Assistant (Greeter)** in PreK & K class (No prep, serve 1 Sunday a month)

**2 Leaders** in 3rd-5th Worship class - (Prep required, serve on a rotational basis TBD)

**2 Assistants** in 3rd-5th Worship class (No Prep, Serve every 3 weeks)

**Prayer Partners** - (Coming later this fall!) If you are unable to serve on Sunday mornings, would you consider committing to pray over one of our IPC children or teens this year? More information to come.

Please reach out to Annika via email if you are interested and want to know more: [annikadurbin@gmail.com](mailto:annikadurbin@gmail.com)

## **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.

*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;  
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, Bev Burch, Angela Wisdom, Annette LaPlaca*