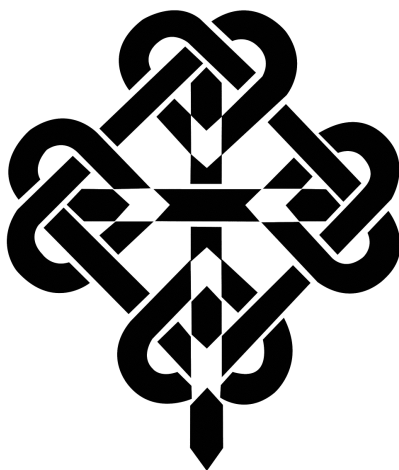


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

# Immanuel

## Presbyterian Church



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

PHILIPPIANS: CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST

JANUARY 29, 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.

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us worship God. "He is our refuge and our fortress,  
our God, whom we trust."

**People: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.**

Pastor: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

**All: Let us call upon our true God, believing him in our hearts,  
confessing him with our mouths, worshiping him in spirit  
and in truth.**

Based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9, 13

\* INVOCATION

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

KATHERINE ANDERSON

Leader: Those who encountered the true and living God in Scripture were overwhelmed with a sense of his majesty and glory, and their own sinfulness. As we encounter the true and living God today, let us together ask for his forgiveness as we consider his character in light of our own.

Leader: Holy and strong One,

**People: Forgive our weakness.**

Leader: Holy and Wise One,

**People: Forgive our foolishness.**

Leader: Holy and loving One,

**People: Forgive our hardness.**

Leader: Holy and generous One,

**People: Forgive our selfishness.**

Leader: Holy and faithful One,

**People: Forgive our fickleness.**

Leader: Holy and gentle One,

**People: Forgive our toughness.**

**All: Forgive us, Holy One, forgive.**

*Adapted from The Open Gate*

Lord, I need You, Oh I need You; ev-'ry hour I

4  
need You. My one de-fense, my

6  
right-eous-ness, Oh God, how I need You.

9  
1. Lord, I come, I con-fess; bow-ing  
2. Where sin runs deep Your grace is more. Where grace is  
3. Teach my song to rise to You when temp

12  
here I find my rest. With-out You I fall a-  
found is where You are. And where You are, Lord, I am  
ta-tion comes my way. When I can't stand I'll fall on

15  
part; You're the one that guides my heart. (Lord, I)  
free; hol-i-ness is Christ in me.  
You; Jes-us, You're my hope and stay.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.  
The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

\* ACCLAMATION

**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**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. Robert Ivey  
YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

Howard Whitaker

\* DOXOLOGY



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.)*

\* SONG: *Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor* Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Keith & Kristyn Getty

*D* *G* *Bm*

1. Christ the sure and steady an - chor in the fu - ry of the storm;  
 2. Christ the sure and steady an - chor while the tem - pest rag - es on.  
 3. Christ the sure and steady an - chor thru the floods of un - be - lief.  
 4. Christ the sure and steady an - chor as we face the waves of death.

*D* *A* *G/A*

when the winds of doubt blow thru me and my sails have all been torn.  
 When temp - ta - tion claims the bat - tle and it seems the night has won,  
 Hope - less some - how, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry!  
 When these trials give way to glo - ry, as we draw our fi - nal breath,

*D/E#* *G* *D* *G* *Bm*

In the suf - f'ring, in the sor - row, when my sink - ing hopes are few,  
 deep - er still then goes the an - chor, tho' I just - ly stand ac - cused.  
 This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see His love for - ev - er proved.  
 we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be - hind and life se - cure.  
*Christ the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true.*

*D* *Bm* *Asus* *4th time repeat italics* *D*

I will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 I will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 I will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 And the calm will be the bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.  
*We will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.*

## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READER: GARY BRAATEN

\* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Deuteronomy 31:30, 32:1-9*

<sup>30</sup> And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

<sup>1</sup> Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;  
hear, you earth, the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> Let my teaching fall like rain  
and my words descend like dew,  
like showers on new grass,  
like abundant rain on tender plants.

<sup>3</sup> I will proclaim the name of the Lord.  
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

<sup>4</sup> He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.

<sup>5</sup> They are corrupt and not his children;  
to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation.

<sup>6</sup> Is this the way you repay the Lord,  
you foolish and unwise people?

Is he not your Father, your Creator,  
who made you and formed you?

<sup>7</sup> Remember the days of old;  
consider the generations long past.  
Ask your father and he will tell you,  
your elders, and they will explain to you.

<sup>8</sup> When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,  
when he divided all mankind,  
he set up boundaries for the peoples

according to the number of the sons of Israel.

<sup>9</sup> For the Lord's portion is his people,  
Jacob his allotted inheritance.

*(continued)*

\* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Philippians 2:12-18*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. NIV

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Christ-Centered Culture*

**WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE**

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*

HYMN 498

\* BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Baptismal side:** He who began a good work in you

**Pulpit side:** will perfect it 'til the day of Christ Jesus.

All: **Amen.**

\* POSTLUDE



## TODAY

**Thanks to our musicians:** Mary Hopper, Zak Reynolds, Youth Bell Choir

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

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open**

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**College Fellowship** at the Netzels' home, 1616 E. Hawthorne Blvd., Wheaton). Dinner and discussion of C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Youth Group**

## This Week

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.

**Women's Bible Study** (childcare)

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

**Food Pantry open**

7:00 p.m.

**Women's Bible Study**

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.

**Mom Talk** (childcare)

Thursday

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Blood Drive** (Immanuel's parking lot)  
See the IPC newsletter for link to sign up.

## In Immanuel and Beyond

February 5

**Next Sunday: Annual Meeting** (during education hour)

February 10-12

**Youth Group Winter Retreat**

February 18

**Join us for an Immanuel Follies**, especially roasting and celebrating Pastor Alva. If you have a skit or song you'd like to perform, contact Mary Hopper or Annette.

Save the Date!

**VBS June 26-30**

**Cards with summer artwork:** Cards featuring artwork contributed by Immanuel artists for the summer sermon series are still available! \$5 each pack (just covering printing costs). You can pick them up in the narthex this Sunday.

**The Smoak family** has decided to remain in Brazil for the time being. They can be reached at [smoaksignals@gmail.com](mailto:smoaksignals@gmail.com).

## 2022 Giving Report and 2023 Challenge

Thanks to God for his provision through your continued generosity. The \$857,138 given to the General Fund in 2022 was not only well above the original budget of \$808,600, but above projected year-end expenses of roughly \$827,000 (which allowed expansion of the budget moving into 2023—more on that at the Annual Meeting February 5). Continuing the exuberant giving of the past few years will allow us to not simply meet the budget but rise to fresh challenges that will increase Immanuel's kingdom impact.

## CANDIDATES FOR ELDER

**Bill France** and Debby came to Immanuel in 2017 after their church of 25-plus years closed due to low attendance. Trained to work hard and wholeheartedly in his 22 years in the U.S. Army, Bill jumped in immediately, helping with the social team and memorial services, with the food pantry, and as treasurer for the missions team. Bill looks forward to helping Session as it reaches out to the church family to promote its spiritual growth. In Bill's free time, he builds wooden ship models and writes books he self-publishes on Kindle.

**Sarah Holman** and Colin came to Immanuel at the invitation of her colleague, Mary Hopper, back when the congregation was still meeting at the College of DuPage. She has served in the Music Ministry, Children in Worship/Following Jesus, Nature Camp/Vacation Bible School, and Sunday School. She previously served as an Elder and traveled with the Arizona Missions Trip. She looks forward to supporting the ministries of Immanuel and collaborating in prayer with Elders, Deacons, and church leadership. In her free time she most enjoys spending time with her family, Colin, Nathaniel and Sylvia, and Timothy.

**Sheroll Ritchie** (standing for a second term) and Kevin came to Immanuel thirty years ago looking for an evangelical church that welcomed female leadership and had a strong music program. They've felt blessed to continue to call it our church home. The Ritchies have two adult children, Faith (29, married to James) and Connor (27). Over the years Sheroll has served in many ways and on most committees, but she definitely prefers behind-the-scenes leadership and administrative support areas. Professionally Sheroll has worked in finance for a general contractor for many years, but her greatest joy is spending time with their three local grandchildren ages 4, 2, and 1.

## CANDIDATES FOR DEACON

**Tim Curley** values the important work of the deacons and knows that the deacon board benefits from a diversity of skills, viewpoints, and friendships. Having served off and on over the years as a deacon before, he considers it an honor to take up the role again. He and Dawn have been members since Immanuel's founding. They value sound theology but also see a sound community of saints as vastly important. That sense of community has kept them at Immanuel through the years. Tim cites Ephesians 2:19: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

**Seth Ehorn** (standing for a second term) completed his doctoral studies in Edinburgh, Scotland, so it seemed fitting that their family would land in a Presbyterian church when they returned to the U.S. They came in 2015 and became members soon after. Seth has served with Children in Worship, has played music during worship services, has taught middle schoolers, has preached on occasion, and has been serving as a deacon. Seth enjoys witnessing the church family's generosity and being involved in serving our members in times of need. In his free time, Seth enjoys reading, writing, cooking, and training his bird dog.

**Debby France** (standing for a second term) felt at home the first time she and her husband, Bill, visited Immanuel in August of 2017. She can often be found wearing an apron and serving on both Social Team and Memorial Team. She sometimes runs around with a microphone in Adult Ed classes. She enjoys reading in her spare time. She has been blessed to serve as a deacon for the past three years.

**Ron Hayden** and his family (Julie and son, Graham) came to Immanuel after moving to Warrenville, more than a decade ago, desiring a more-reformed church to attend. Ron has served in the past as an elder as well as chair of the Adult Education committee. As a deacon he looks forward to serving in a hands-on capacity and getting to know fellow members of Immanuel. In his free time, he enjoys board games, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and reading books.

**Tom Nguyen** (standing for a second term) came to Immanuel around June 2015. He's been active as an usher and on the Missions Team. For the past three years, he's served his first term as a deacon. He looks forward to seeing the Immanuel community blessed by the helping hands of the deacons, while continuing as head usher. The nature of Tom's work means he's traveling a lot, but when he's here, he enjoys practicing Kung Fu at the Wheaton Park District and playing online games.

**Joel Rose** came to Immanuel sixteen years ago when he moved to the Chicago area to marry Annie. The Roses moved out of state for four years but happily rejoined the Immanuel family in 2021. Joel has previously served as a deacon and helped in the nursery, Following Jesus, and occasionally with technology and the website. Joel looks forward to the fellowship and service that comes with the office of deacon. In his free time, Joel enjoys spending time with Annie and his daughters, Malena (twelve) and Eliza (ten). Joel also likes traveling and keeping up with the latest in technology and games.

*ELDERS*

*Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Ron Netzel, Carl Pickard,  
Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Gaby Sosa, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth*

*DEACONS*

*Phebe Balzer, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn (Chair), Debby France, Dee Netzel,  
Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Jack Swanson, 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*