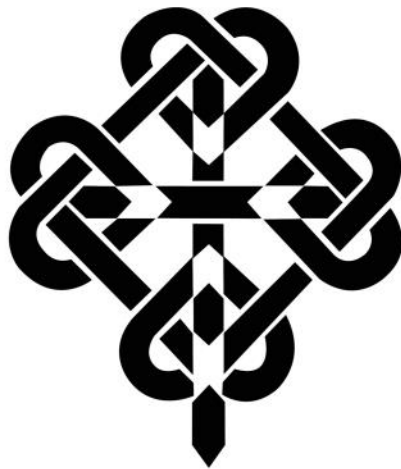


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

Immanuel

Presbyterian Church



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

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

JULY 16, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

Singing the Psalms

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: How great and glorious is our God!

All: From hour to hour, from day to day, our lives ought to overflow with praise and gratitude.

Pastor: He creates beauty out of the dust of our fallen natures.

All: Out of the ashes of our failures he brings forth meaning and purpose.

Pastor: He exalts the humble and enriches the poor.

All: He transforms our weaknesses into channels of his strength.

Pastor: Our emptiness becomes a vessel for his fullness, our spiritual poverty the basis for his eternal grace.

All: How great and glorious is our God!

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

HYMN 92

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

SHEROLL RITCHIE

Leader: How can we be so blind, and yet see so acutely at the same time?

People: We are quick to note the dark acts of others, yet slow to recognize the evil in our own thoughts and the stains on our hands.

Leader: O, for eyes that will see and honor the good in others!

People: O, for hearts that loathe the blinding evil of indwelling sin!

Leader: Come, let us turn to the fount of mercy, whose love heals our blindness, and whose righteousness transforms our condemning hearts into instruments of peace.

SONG OF CONFESSION: *Shine on Me* (Verse 2)

Refrain
Capo 1

(D) (F#m7) (Bm7) (D/A) (GM7) (F#m7) (Bm7) (E7) (Em/A)
 Eb Gm7 Cm7 Eb/Bb AbM7 Gm7 Cm7 F7 Fm/Bb

Shine on me, shine on me; Je - sus, shine on me.

(Bb7) (D/A) (GM7) (F#m7) (Fm7) (Em7) (A7) (D) *Fine*
 B7 Eb/Bb AbM7 Gm7 Gbm7 Fm7 Bb7 Eb

Through the dark - ness of my heart, Je - sus; shine on me.

(D) (Daug) (G) (D) (Bm) (D/A) (E/B) (A7)
 Eb Ebaug Ab Eb Cm Eb/Bb F/A Bb7

1 See my heart, for I re - pent; hear my hum - ble plea
 2 In your mer - cy I im - plore, make the dark - ness flee.
 3 New be - gin - nings light my way toward e - ter - ni - ty.

(D) (F#7) (G) (C#7) (F#m7) (B7) (Em7) (A7) (D) *Refrain*
 Eb G7 Ab D7 Gm7 C7 Fm7 Bb7 Eb

to re - new your cov - e - nant. Je - sus, shine on me.
 Heav'n - ly light up - on me pour. Je - sus, shine on me.
 Lead me in your light to - day. Je - sus, shine on me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the comforting word of the Scriptures to all who truly repent. As far as the East is from the West so far does he remove our transgressions from us. If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

* ACCLAMATION

All: **To him who loves us and frees us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever 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: *You Amaze Us*

Douglas Fowler, Selah
RACHEL AND CHRIS GILMORE

You are our life
When death is all around.
You are our peace
When all else seems to fail.
You are our strength
When our weakness overcomes.
You are, yes, you are.

When our world is shaken,
When our hope is broken,
Still you are God of all.

You amaze us.
You alone are worthy
Of our praises.
You deserve our worship.
We adore you.
Your glory and your majesty,
Renew us, consume us.

Your word brings light
When darkness falls around.
Your word speaks truth
When we're lost and wandering.
You are our God.
Above you there's no one else.
You are, yes you are.

All the glory and honor belongs to you,
Our Lord.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here be-
low. Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host; praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

CHORUS: *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

(Children come forward.)

Tell me the stories of Jesus, Just as his followers heard.
Lessons he taught his disciples, Written for us in His Word.

PARABLE READING

(Children ages 3 through 1st grade are dismissed to go downstairs.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

KATHERINE ANDERSON

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Daniel 7:13-18*

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

¹⁵ “I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

“So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷ ‘The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.’” NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a
 2. What truth can calm the trou-bled soul? God is good, God is
 5 3. Un - to the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He
 lone. What is our on - ly con - fi dence? That our souls to Him be
 good. Where is His grace and good-ness known? In our great Re-deem-er's
 9 lives!" And what re-ward will hea-ven bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with
 long. Who holds our days with - in His hand? What comes, a -
 blood. Who holds our faith when fears a - rise Who stands a -
 12 Him. There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and
 part from His com-mand? And what will keep us to the end? The love of
 above the storm-y trial? Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Un - to the
 16 death will be de-stroyed, And we will feast in end-less joy, When Christ is
 Christ, in which we stand. _____ O sing hal - le - lu - jah! Our
 21 shore, the rock of Christ?
 ours for - ev - er - more
 hope springs e - ter - nal; O sing hal - le - lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con
 26 fess Christ our hope in life and death.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” NIV

SERMON: *What IS the Kingdom of Heaven?*

MARK NOLL

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Let All Things Now Living*

HYMN 125

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Rachel Gilmore, Chris Gilmore, Seth Ehorn, Heather Reyes, Alethea Funck

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

Special thanks to Mark Noll for bringing us the Word today. Mark is retired as a history professor first at Wheaton College and then the University of Notre Dame. He and Maggie are very grateful to have been members of Immanuel back even before it was Immanuel.

Prime Timers, be sure to sign up today to attend a farewell luncheon for Jane Steffler, next Saturday. Jane is moving to Kentucky to be near her daughter's family.

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

No Youth Group

This Week

Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Food Pantry open**

Thursday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. **Bible Study at Terra's**

Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Prime Timers' Farewell Luncheon
for Jane Steffler**

In Immanuel and Beyond

Sundays 9:30 a.m. **Book of Acts read aloud**

Saturday, August 5 **Back-to-School Carnival
at Johnson elementary**

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.

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 Ehorn (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