

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 2, 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

*American Songs from the Summer Worship Book*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord.

**All: Together we will praise our Creator, who does all things well.**

Pastor: His name is Mighty God; his works are a marvel to us.

**All: Therefore let us recount his deeds with great joy. Praise the Lord.**

### \* INVOCATION

\* OPENING SONG: *Cantad al Senor (O Sing to the Lord)*

Summer Worship Music, p. 16

## WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

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*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Isaiah 53)*

Leader: Receive God's forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ: He has taken up your infirmities and carried your sorrows; he was pierced for your transgressions and crushed for your iniquities; upon him was the punishment that brings you peace and by his wounds you are healed. 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.**

\* APOSTLES' CREED

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried;  
He descended into hell,  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic\* Church;  
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* universal

\* 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: *Softly and Tenderly*

ELLIE, SAMANTHA, ABBY DURBIN

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling for you and for me;  
Patiently Jesus is waiting and watching,  
Watching for you and for me!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,  
Mercies for you and for me?

Come home! Come home!  
Ye who are weary, come home!  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised,  
Promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,  
Pardon for you and for me!

**WE HEAR GOD SPEAK**

\* OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Psalm 84:1-5, 10-12*

- <sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord Almighty!
- <sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh cry out  
for the living God.
- <sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young—  
a place near your altar,  
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- <sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.
- <sup>12</sup> Lord Almighty,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORUS: *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

*(Children come forward.)*

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: "Tell me the sto-ries of Je - sus, Just as his fol-low ers heard." The second system starts with a measure rest of 5 measures, indicated by a '5' above the treble clef. The lyrics are: "Les-sons he taught his di - sci - ples, Writ-ten for us in His Word." The music features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

PARABLE READING

AMY DANUSIAR

*(Children ages 3 through 1st grade are dismissed.)*

\* HYMN: *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

HYMN 645

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 13:44-46*

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. NIV

MEDITATION: *People of the Greatest Treasure*

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 **Bob and Becky Williams** 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.)

Solo: Across the Land (Kent Richter)	<i>see next page</i>
Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured	Page 32
My Jesus, I Love Thee	Page 33
O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus	Page 36

**WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE**

- \* CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace* HYMN 460
- \* BENEDICTION
- \* POSTLUDE: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* Krebs

## A Communion Song

Across the land, beside a distant ocean,  
Where Christian hearts in unknown tongues familiar hungers pray,  
They reach for bread in poor and plain devotion  
And touch us here ten thousand miles away.  
O Christ, the bread and wine!  
A fellowship both human and divine  
That stretches beyond our spatial frame  
And makes us one to glorify Your name.

Across an age, through dark, medieval histories,  
Where peasant hearts in Latin verses wonder what they say,  
They humbly take the wild and common mysteries  
And touch us here a thousand years away.  
O Christ, the bread and wine!  
A fellowship both human and divine  
That stretches beyond our temporal frame  
And makes us one to glorify Your name.

Across the room, where private anger lingers,  
And tired, judgmental attitudes are solid as a wall,  
The twice-torn bread in barely-brother's fingers  
Reminds me God is Father of us all.  
O Christ, the bread and wine!  
A foretaste of a wedding feast divine  
Where myriad millions lovingly proclaim  
You made us one to glorify Your name.  
God, make us one to glorify Your name.

by Kent Richter



## TODAY

**Thanks to our musicians:** Kent Richter, Mary Hopper, Ellie, Samantha and Abby Durbin

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

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open  
No Youth Group**

## This Week

Tuesday (July 4th)

**Food Pantry Closed for the holiday  
Church office closed**

Thursday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Bible Study at Terra's**

Saturday 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Game Night** in the lower level.

*Exciting new games for adults and teens.*

*See the IPC newsletter for more information.*

## In Immanuel and Beyond

Sunday, July 9, 9:30 a.m.

**Book of Acts read aloud**

July 9, noon - 1:00 p.m.

**Bring-your-own picnic lunch with Smoaks  
after church**

July 9, 3:30 p.m.

**Wedding shower for Bella Anderson** in the Ministry House. *RSVP to Priscilla Witte (pgwitte@yahoo.com).* Look for a link to Bella's registry in the newsletter.

July 15-21

**High School Mission Trip to Mexico**

**Giving Update:** At the end of June, giving to the General Fund was \$383,104, 8% short of our projection of \$417,700. While cash gifts remain close to last year, this is the first time in at least three years that we did not receive any stock in the first half of the year, reflecting changes in the economy. Giving to the general fund so far amounts to 44% of our annual budget of \$872,100. Though lower than projected, typically more than half of our income is received in the second half of the year. Cash reserves remain strong, so we simply ask that you continue to give as consistently as possible as we go through the annual summer slump. Thank you!

## **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.

## 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;  
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*