

ELDERS

*Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Phyllis LePeau, Lew Luttrell,
Carl Pickard, Leon Sinclair, Alva Steffler, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth*

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Judy Bryson (Chair), Tim Curley, Colin Holman, Marc Johnson, Michael Kendrick,
Jim Mann, Harv Meyers, Jeanette Myra, Heather Reyes*

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**;
Amber Johnson, **Business Manager**; Barbara Lawrence, **Church Secretary**; Frank Lawrence, **Church Sexton***

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29W260 Batavia Road

Warrenville, IL 60555

(630) 393-4400

www.immanuelpresbyterian.net

Immanuel is affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).



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A SERMON SERIES ON ECCLESIASTES

IMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 17, 2019

Prayers During Communion

Welcome, Visitors!

Thank you for choosing to attend Immanuel this morning. We hope that you will find a warm welcome and that you will experience the presence of our Lord here. Our congregation comes from all kinds of backgrounds, so wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.

Do you have young children with you this morning?

At Immanuel we believe God deeply loves and values children and mysteriously begins His work in them long before they may be able to articulate it. We joyfully welcome children of all ages into our worship service to join the larger body of Christ in worship, confession, giving, and fellowship. We offer a nursery for children under the age of three, a worship program designed for children in preschool through second grade, and Sunday School for ages preschool through fifth grade during the school year. Please stop by the **Children’s Ministry Station** (in the Gathering Place) before the service to sign your children in and get more information on our ministries.

Let us contact you.

At the end of each row, there is a friendship folder with welcome cards and a place for you to let us know you were here. If you simply sign your name and address, we’ll send you a letter with more information about Immanuel. If you include your phone number and email, we’ll be glad to contact you that way too. Thank you for coming!

Note: If you need **hearing assistance**, please speak to one of our ushers or sound crew.

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.

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

Wednesdays in Lent we will host **Wednesday Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m. followed by Lenten Vespers**. You can sign up to attend week to week in the Gathering Place.

Easter flowers: If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary for Easter, beginning next Sunday you may purchase a blooming plant in memory of a loved one on March 24, 31 or April 7. The cost of the plant is \$12 and you may take your plant home following the Easter service.

Women’s Clothing Swap: Immanuel women, we’ll be collecting gently used women’s clothing (no stains or tears) for all the Sundays during Lent. Look for a bin near the front doors of the church. On Friday evening, May 3, all Immanuel women are invited (whether or not they donated clothes) to come Swap-Till-You-Drop. On Saturday afternoon, May 4, we’ll have a women’s used clothing sale to benefit our ministry partners Warrenville Youth & Family Services. We need: women’s clothing donations, donations of hangers, volunteers to take shifts organizing and folding clothes April 29-May 3, and volunteers to help work the sale on the Saturday. Talk with Amy Treier, Sharon Wolgemuth, or Annette with questions or to volunteer.

Who We Seek to Be

Called and gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we exist as a community of love and truth to celebrate the infinite glory of God through:

Joyful worship centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living Word

Resolute fellowship in Christ made alive by the unifying love of the Spirit among us

Transformative learning for all ages toward full maturity in Christ

Loving service to one another, the community and the world, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus

Spirited mission to the lost near and far, proclaiming the gospel in word and deed

WE GATHER IN GOD’S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* arr. by Leavitt
More Love to Thee, O Christ arr. by Giamanco

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us praise the Lord!

All: **How good it is to sing his praises! How delightful, and how right.**

Pastor: How understanding he is. He heals the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds.

All: **He counts the stars and calls them all by name. How great he is! His power is absolute!**

Pastor: Sing out your thanks to him; sing praises to your God.

All: **Yes, praise the Lord!**

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *We Come, O Christ, to You*

HYMN 181

SERMON: *Focusing on Folly*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* (verses 1 and 4)

HYMN 345

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, elder Jack Swanson is available at the front following the service.

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Alethea Funck, Katy Abernethy, and the Immanuel orchestra

Be sure to visit our **Bake Sale** after the service to support the Youth Mission Fund.

11:10 a.m.
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday school and Adult Education
Food Pantry open
Iglesia Roca Eterna
Youth Group

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 9:15 - 11:00 a.m.
11:00 a. m. - 1:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study (*childcare*)
Food pantry open
Women’s Bible Study
Pioneer Clubs

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

Mom Talk (*childcare*)
Soup Supper followed by vespers service

Thursday 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - noon
3:00 p.m.

choir workshop
Clinkenbeard shower (*lower level*)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

LEON SINCLAIR

Leader: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

People: Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Leader: Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

People: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Leader: Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

People: Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Leader: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

People: Let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Leader: Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: *The Gissing Family*

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Ecclesiastes 10:1-11*

- ¹ As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.
² The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.
³ Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense
and show everyone how stupid they are.
⁴ If a ruler’s anger rises against you, do not leave your post;
calmness can lay great offenses to rest.
⁵ There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler:
⁶ Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones.
⁷ I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.
⁸ Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall
may be bitten by a snake.
⁹ Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs
may be endangered by them.
¹⁰ If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed,
but skill will bring success.
¹¹ If a snake bites before it is charmed, the charmer receives no fee. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 7:24-29*

- ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF CONFESSION

The musical score for 'Song of Confession' is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: 'Ky - ri - e. Lord, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e. Lord, have mer - cy. Chris - te. Christ, have mer - cy. Chris - te. Christ, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e! Lord, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e. Lord, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines. Chord symbols (D, G, Bm, Em, C, A) are written above the staves. The tempo is marked 'Leader' and 'All'.

Text and music: Kathleen Hart Brumm (b. 1958)
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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: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might to our God 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: *For the Beauty of the Earth/Come Thou Fount*

KATIE ABERNETHY

* DOXOLOGY

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

(Children 3 years through 2nd grade are dismissed to go downstairs.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

KEN WOLGEMUTH

* HYMN: *Before the Throne of God Above*

Vikki Cook

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me
3. Be - hold Him there! The ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,
strong, a per - fect plea, A great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, Up - ward I look and see Him
spot - less Right - eous - ness; The great un change - a - ble I
"Love," who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there who made an end to all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace! One with Him
grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
self I can - not die, My soul is pur - chased with His
heart; I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can
free; For God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood; My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my
bid me thence de - part, no tongue can
Him and par - don me, to look on
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my
bid me thence de - part.
Him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God.

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