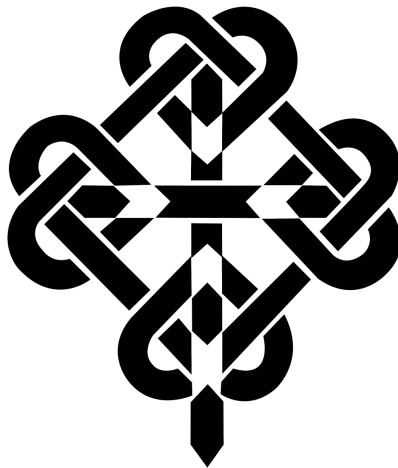


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

Immanuel

Presbyterian Church



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

LENTEN SERIES
The Character of Christ

MARCH 21, 2021

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

PRELUDE

JOHN ZIMMERMAN

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MARY HOPPER

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* 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

* OPENING HYMN: *How Firm a Foundation*

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4. "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am your God— I will still give you aid.
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can He say than to you He has said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 the flame shall not hurt you, I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by My right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume, and your gold to re - fine."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

RON NETZEL

Reader: "Come! Give ear and come to me; listen that you may live." (Isaiah 55:3 NIV)

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

People: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Reader: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away, through my groaning all day long.

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

Reader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not cover up my iniquity.

People: I said, "I will confess my transgression to the Lord"--and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found
(Psalm 32:1-6, NIV)

SONG OF CONFESSION *(sing first verse)*

All:

Refrain Dm C Dm C Dm

I lift my soul to you; hear my prayer, hear my prayer.
Alternate What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

prayer. I lift my soul to you; hear my prayer.
soul! What won-drous love is this, O my soul!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. (Romans 8:11 NIV)

* SONG OF ACCLAMATION *(Please stand)*

(sing alternate verse)

All: *Refrain*

Dm C Dm C Dm

I lift my soul to you; hear my prayer, hear my soul!
Alternate What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my

C Am F Am Em Dm

prayer. I lift my soul to you; hear my prayer.
soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

* 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.)

SPECIAL MUSIC: *He Shall Feed His Flock*

John Ness Beck
LAUREN MATHUES

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd:
He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom,
And gently shall lead those that are with young.

He shall gather the lambs in His arm,
And carry them close to His heart;
And gently, so gently, so gently shall lead those with young.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

ANNIKA DURBIN
MILES EHORN

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

ALVA STEFFLER

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please stand for the reading of God's Word.)

READERS: ELLIE, SAMANTHA AND ABIGAIL DURBIN

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33*

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

³¹ For no one is cast off
by the Lord forever.

³² Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

³³ For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to anyone. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

Matthew 11:12-19

¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears, let them hear.

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ “‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.’”

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

Luke 15:1-7

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

SERMON: *The Character of Christ: Fidelity*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

(Congregation sings with masks).

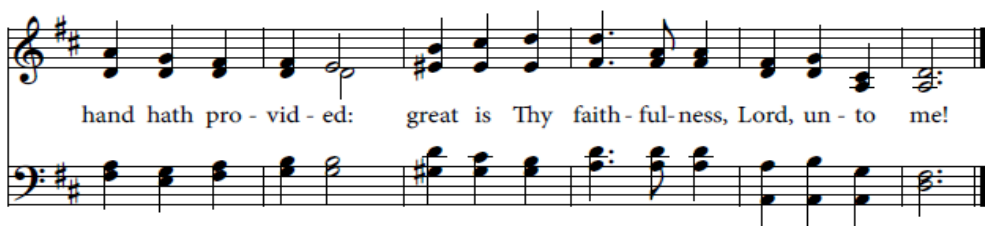
1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fath-er; there is no
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

-pas-sions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row: bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed Thy



Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 Music: William M. Runyan, 1923

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, elder Steve Westfall (630-717-7708 steve.westfall@comcast.net) will be glad to pray with you.

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, John Zimmerman, Lauren Mathues.

Thanks to our technical crew: Peter Welander, John Economides

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1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Food pantry open
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	3rd - 5th grade Sunday School
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	College Fellowship
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Youth Group (Zoom)
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Adult Ed class (Zoom) Michael Allen continues a course on Augustine's <i>City of God</i> .

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

9:30 -11:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry (open)
7:00 p.m.	Men's Book Group Women's Bible Study

In Immanuel and Beyond

Easter is coming! We plan to worship outdoors, rain or shine. If your family has a small portable canopy, plan to bring it on Easter morning. The church has purchased several 10x10 canopies, so that many can be under shade or out of the rain, depending on the weather. We need quite a number of early volunteers on Easter Sunday morning to help put up the canopies, etc. Contact Annette if you're willing to help.

Bells and Crosses: In true Immanuel tradition, plan to bring along bells on Easter Sunday morning to ring during all the Alleluias. Since we won't be able to go forward to flower the large cross, families are encouraged to bring along small crosses to "lift high" during worship. If you get to the Saturday before Easter and still need to find or make a cross, watch for an opportunity to come by the church parking lot to make simple crosses for worship.

Witnesses to the Resurrection: Traditionally, we use some pages of the Easter Sunday bulletin to remember loved ones who have gone before us to be with the Lord. If you'd like to have a loved one listed, email Barb at immanpres@gmail.com with the name, like this: *Charles and Catherine LaPlaca, Parents/grandparents of the LaPlaca family*. Instead of purchasing flowers, consider a suggested donation of \$10 for our food pantry ("pantry" in the memo line).

From the Finance Committee: 2020 could have been a disastrous year financially, but we stand in awe of the way God blessed Immanuel through your response to ongoing needs as well as the renovation project. It is truly amazing! It is not too early in 2021 to remind you that Session has approved a budget increase of about four percent. Think of it this way: for every \$100 you gave to the general fund last year, we need to raise \$104 this year. It is with joyful anticipation that we look forward to God's continued blessing in 2021!

HOLY WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Good Friday, April 2

A Choral Reading Service

“From Despair to Praise”

7:00 p.m.

(RSVP up to 50)

Saturday, April 3

IPC families make crosses

Easter Sunday, April 4

11:00 a.m.

Outdoor Worship

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn, Debby France, Katie Pickard,
Dee Netzel, Tom Nguyen, Heather Reyes (chair), 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;
Amber Johnson, Business Manager; Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton*

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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