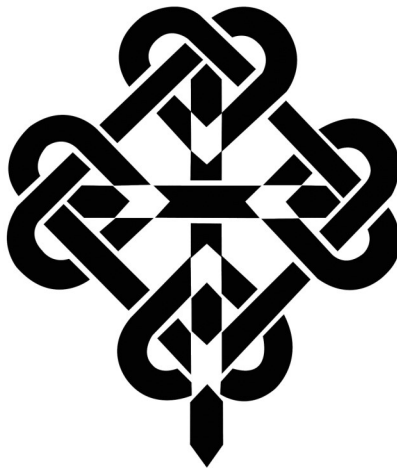


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

Immanuel

Presbyterian Church



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

MARCH 29, 2020

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

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Pastor: Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

All: For he is our God and we are the sheep of his pasture, the flock under his care.

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *How Firm a Foundation*

1. How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
 3. "When through fiery trials your pathway 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
 shake, 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!"

TEXT: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 MUSIC: American folk tune, Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832

FOUNDATION
 11.11.11.11

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Our God, we come to you recognizing that we fail; our human flesh is weak, our sins are many. But we are assured that sincere confession is met by your saving forgiveness:

All: Through your Son our sins are forgiven. For your mercies, O God, we thank you.

Leader: Our guilt is dealt with, our burdens are lifted; our lives begin again. For your mercies, O God, we thank you.

All: Through your Spirit we know your presence, our loneliness is shared; our blind eyes made to see, our love is rekindled. For your mercies, O God, we thank you.

Leader: You and you alone can heal, restore, forgive. Your compassion and your understanding seep into us, your wisdom enlightens us, new courage grips us, and we find your Spirit at work in us, bringing together everything that was fractured by our selfishness and sin.

All: O Lord our God, to you be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The promise of God is greater than our sinfulness: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Brothers and sisters, rest in this good news—in Jesus Christ we stand forgiven. Amen.

* 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.

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

ALVA STEFFLER

* SONG: *He Will Hold Me Fast*

Matt Merker



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
Jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.



I could nev - er keep my hold Through life's fear - ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast



For my love is of - ten cold; He must hold me fast. —
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
'Til our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!



— He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;



For my Sa - vior loves me so,



He will hold me fast.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *2 Chronicles 20:1-26*

¹ After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.

² Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). ³ Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴ The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard ⁶ and said:

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. ⁷ Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸ They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ⁹ ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

¹⁰ “But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. ¹¹ See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. ¹² Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

¹³ All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.

¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

¹⁵ He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. ¹⁶ Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.’”

¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord. ¹⁹ Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

²⁰ Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.” ²¹ After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.”

²² As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. ²⁵ So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. ²⁶ On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Hebrews 12:1-3*

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *The Object of Our Focus*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,
4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

O Thou of God and man the Son, Thee will I cher - ish,
robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
and all the twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

TEXT: *Muenster Gesangbuch*, 1677
MUSIC: Silesian folk melody, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842

CRUSADERS' HYMN
56.85.58

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

If you are in need of prayer, Katherine Anderson would be glad to pray with you. Contact her at katand@sbcglobal.net or 630-292-4376.

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper Welander, Peter Welander

Today	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
Tuesday	11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
Thursday		Food Pantry closed

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

If you are not on the **Constant Contact** email list to receive our weekly newsletter and updates, contact Barb (immanpres@gmail.com).

We would like to continue our tradition of remembering friends, and family who are **Witnesses to the Resurrection**. Although we will not be ordering flowers to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning, we can offer you the chance to recognize your loved ones. Send your name and the names/relationships of those you'd like printed on the memorial page in our Easter bulletin. If you have already ordered, your money will be refunded.

Pioneer Clubs had our final awards campfire for 2019/2020 - a virtual one! Special thanks to the following adults who helped in club this year: **Jeff Wisdom** (joined us on our campout & provided excellent fire-making instruction), **Alva Steffler** (helped us understand what it was like to be a senior citizen), **Tom Nyguen** (taught our self-defense award), and **Peter Welander** (for our Toymaker award - helped club members create an heirloom toy). In short, we had a wonderful year together!

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn, Debby France,
Marc Johnson, Michael Kendrick, Harv Meyers, Tom Nguyen, Heather Reyes (chair), Jack Swanson*

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*

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