

March 3, 2019

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.

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

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are here to praise God because Jesus Christ has set us free to live.

All: We are here because in Christ we are forgiven and made whole.

Leader: We are gathered because Jesus Christ has united us into one family of faith.

All: We will witness to the good news: Jesus Christ frees and unites. Praise God! Alleluia! Amen.

* INVOCATION



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WE ARE RENEWED IN 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:

People: 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.

People: 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.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into

the world to save sinners. In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Franz Schubert

(Music can be found on p. 20 of communion booklet.)

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

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.

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: When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder SAMUEL REICH

DIACONAL PRAYER TIM CURLEY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ANNIKA DURBIN

SONG OF ILLUMINATION



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WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: DON AND MARY JANE BAUER

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:6

¹⁶ When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the labor that is done on earth—people getting no sleep day or night— ¹⁷ then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.

¹ So I reflected on all this and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God's hands, but no one knows whether love or hate awaits them. ² All share a common destiny—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.

As it is with the good, so with the sinful; as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them.

³ This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead. ⁴ Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!

⁵ For the living know that they will die,

but the dead know nothing;

they have no further reward,

and even their name is forgotten.

⁶ Their love, their hate

and their jealousy have long since vanished;

never again will they have a part

in anything that happens under the sun. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-8

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

HYMN 159

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN: O Savior, Precious Savior

* MEDITATION: *Death's Looming Shadow*

WE RESPOND WITH THANKSGIVING

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.

Gluten-free bread is available at the table in the balcony. Please feel free to partake of the elements as you feel led.

During Communion, Gary and Cathy Deddo 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.)

| Be Still, for the Spirit of the Lord | page 8 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Solo: I Surrender All | Samuel Reich |
| God to Enfold You (Sing 3 times) | page 18 |
| Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured | page 32 |
| There Is a Redeemer | page 40 |
| Jesus, Messiah | page 29 |

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: Amazing Grace HYMN 460 (first and last verses)

- * BENEDICTION
- * POSTLUDE

TODAY

We welcome Wheaton College student Samuel Reich this morning, playing the Paraguayan harp during the offertory. Native to the country, the Paraguayan harp is smaller than the more common pedal harp and traditionally has thirty-seven nylon strings that are plucked with the fingernails for a brighter, less mellow sound. It's tuned to the key of F and doesn't have pedals enabling accidentals to be played, though some have levers placed above each string to raise notes by a half step. Paraguayan harps are most often used for polka music with a fast-paced beat in a rhythmic hemiola. Paraguayan harp music is usually not transcribed in written music, with traditional songs passed down from teacher to student and played by ear.

On Communion Sundays we receive a **Deacons' Fund offering** for meeting needs in our church and community. If you are writing a check, write "Deacons' Fund" on the memo line. It is not necessary to put your check into a Deacons' Fund envelope.

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

Thanks to our musicians: Katrina Di Crasto, Alethea Funck, Samuel Reich

| Tod | ay |
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| 11:10 a.m. | Sunday school and Adult Education |
|------------------|--|
| 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Food Pantry open |
| 2:00 p.m. | Iglesia Roca Eterna |
| 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | College Fellowship group meets at the |
| | Bretsens' home, 502 W. Indiana St., |
| | Wheaton. RSVP to Cindy (630-510-2795). |
| 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Youth Group in the Ministry House |

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. 7:00 p.m. | Mom Talk (childcare) Ash Wednesday service |
| Thursday | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Food Pantry open |
| Saturday | 10:00 a.m. | Prime Timers' This Is My Story |

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

Join us for our **Ash Wednesday service** this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. On the following Wednesdays in Lent we will also host **Wednesday Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m. followed by Lenten Vespers**. Beginning today you can sign up to attend week to week.

Prime Timers' This Is My Story will meet on Saturday, March 9. John and Janet Schuurman will be speaking. Sign up this Sunday.

Men's Breakfast, 7:45 a.m. on March 16, catered by HoneyMilk, with speaker Derek Morrison. Cost is \$5. Sign-ups begin this Sunday!

ENCORE! will meet on March 13 at 1:00 p.m. instead of March 6 - Ash Wednesday. The discussion will focus on Friendship. ENCORE! is a women's group for recently retired, retired or never retiring women. RSVP to graceschwanda@gmail.com.

Save the date: VBS 2019 "In the Wild" will be the week of June 24-28!

SCOTS' FORM OF COMMUNION

The early Scottish Presbyterians felt strongly that their manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper should clearly symbolize the truth that the Risen Christ is host to his redeemed people at this covenant meal. Samuel Rutherford wrote that "they should sit, as banqueters, at one table with our King, and eat and drink." Abraham Kuyper expressed his opinion that the Lord's Supper should be eaten from a table, saying, "Jesus spreads a feast for his friends and as a King invites his people to his table."

We use this form largely for the same reasons expressed by our Presbyterian predecessors and also have discovered reasons in our own experience to value this observance of the Sacrament. The form demands a little more from us than the tradition of being served at our places in the congregation. As we overcome our nervousness about going forward we find that the very act impresses upon us the reality of our personal response to our Lord's invitation to receive his grace. Sitting with others at his table, singing and watching others go forward impresses upon us the reality of our fellowship and the joy of seeing others meet our Lord in his love.

NOTICE TO FAMILIES: In accord with our practice of the Lord's Supper, children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ to the elders are asked to refrain from partaking in communion. We desire that such children look forward gladly to the day when they take their first communion as a significant step in their spiritual growth. In the meantime, we want to provide ways they may grow to understand the meaning of the sacrament and also feel that though young, they are significant persons in the covenant family of God. So we invite those children to come forward to the Table and be seated with their parents. The elder who serves the elements to the parents will briefly offer prayer for the child. So that the elders may know which children to pray for in this way, we suggest that the children not taking communion *fold their hands on the Table*. We hope this custom will encourage parents as they help their children grow in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" and prepare for the time when they are ready to profess Christ and take communion.

ADULT EDUCATION

(Feb. 17—Mar. 31)

Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit

Sanctuary

The Holy Spirit can seem like the mysterious member of the Trinity. Who is the Spirit? What is the Spirit's relationship to the Father and Son? How does he fit in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ? What is the nature and character of his ministry? We will consider what Scripture teaches us about the Spirit, helping us to guard against misunderstanding and discover how his work is essential to the life and ministries of the church and to the coming perfection of creation.

Gary and Cathy have been members of Immanuel for about eighteen years now. Gary works for the Grace Communion International denomination as a teacher and speaker and serves as president of its online seminary. Cathy teaches the women's Bible studies here at Immanuel. They have three adult children and four grandsons.

Hollywood's Answers to Our Deep Questions

Ministry House

In this class, by using a lecture/discussion format and accompanied by film and television clips, we will seek understanding of Hollywood's powerful role as our culture's formative storyteller and "question asker". More than anything else we hope to remind ourselves of God's people's responsibilities as consumers of popular culture.

John Schuurman, a long-time consumer of pop culture, seeks ongoing service in God's kingdom as a minister, teacher, voice-actor, and avid observer of the ways of the world. John and Janet have been worshipping and participating at IPC since 2011.

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2019

Ash Wednesday Service

March 6, 7 p.m.

Soup Suppers and Vesper Services

March 13, 6 p.m.

March 20, 6 p.m.

March 27, 6 p.m.

April 3, 6 p.m.

April 10, 6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 18, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 19, 7 p.m.

Resurrection Sunday

April 21

Brunch, 9:30 a.m.

Easter worship, 10:30 a.m.

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.

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

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