

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 31, 2019

ADULT EDUCATION
SESSION 5 (Apr. 7—May 19)

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.

The Gospel of Mark: Study, Meditation and Prayer

Jim Wilhoit, Andy LePeau
Ministry House

In this class we'll look at several key episodes in Mark through inductive Bible Study (working at tables to mark the text and discuss what we've found). Then as a class we'll meditate on the story we just studied, and finally we'll pray through the passage. The class is an experiment in providing an opportunity for us to wrestle with the text and interact with it in a very personal way as well.

Andy Le Peau is a founding elder of Immanuel and was for many years the editorial director at InterVarsity Press. He still writes and edits, most recently publishing Mark Through Old Testament Eyes. But he is best known as Phyllis Le Peau's trophy husband.

Jim Wilhoit began attending Immanuel on George's first Sunday. Jim is best known for being married to the chair of the Social Team. In May he will retire from Wheaton College where he has taught for thirty-eight years.

Agreeing to Disagree: Christianity and Other Religions in Dialogue

Kent Richter
Sanctuary

Studying the ideas and practices of other religions, we can look at how they share elements with Christian belief and practice while also clarifying differences that make for important disagreements. We can study Hinduism, different kinds of Buddhism, Islam and Sikhism, as well as other religions that interest you. Hopefully, we can take the ideas and implications of other religions seriously for their philosophical and moral implications, while we understand the uniqueness and necessity of Christian faith.

Kent Richter is Professor of Philosophy and World Religions at the College of DuPage for 26 years, regular attendee at IPC for just as long. Been busy in choir and committees here and there, but mostly these days with the Food Pantry, being married to Renee, pantry coordinator.

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.

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: *Brother James’ Air* arr. Carter
Be Still My Soul arr. Phemister

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AMBER JOHNSON

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: *Come, Thou Almighty King* HYMN 101

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION *(In unison)* KATHERINE ANDERSON

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In spite of God’s love for us and gift of love to us, at times we still act in destructive ways. At times we still close our hearts to God and disobey God’s law.

Leader: Together, let us confess our sin.

Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*

SONG OF CONFESSION

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) in D major, 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e, Lord, have mer - cy. Chris - te, Christ, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e! Lord, have mer - cy. 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 placed above the staves to indicate the harmonic structure. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes.

Text and music: Kathleen Hart Brumm (b. 1958) Used by permission, CCLI #294262
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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.

Women: We'll be collecting gently used women's clothing through Lent. Look for the 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, 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.

A **Memorial Service** for Julie Nowack will take place at Immanuel at noon on Saturday, April 13, with a light lunch to follow.

TODAY

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

Thanks to our musicians: Alethea Funck, Mary Hopper, Rachel Gilmore, Chris Gilmore, and Karin Buursma.

Be sure to greet Dick and Dot Rung in the Gathering Place and help them celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

Following the worship service today you can join others for a **Prayer Open House**. You will have an opportunity to be prayed for by our church leaders. This will take place in the sanctuary. You are invited to come and go as you like at any time during the education hour in order to receive prayer. There will also be an opportunity join a circle that will be engaged in ongoing prayer on several important topics. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this meaningful time of prayer. Nursery and children’s Sunday school classes are available. There is no Sunday school for middle school and high school.

If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary for Easter by providing a flowering plant in memory of a loved one, you may sign up to purchase one today, or April 7. No orders can be taken after April 7. The cost of the plant is \$12 and you may take your plant home on Easter morning.

	1:00 - 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open Iglesia Roca Eterna Youth Group
THIS WEEK		
Tuesday	<i>(Immanuel is a polling place.)</i>	
	9:15 - 11:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study <i>(Gathering Place)</i> <i>(childcare provided)</i>
	11:00 a. m. - 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Food pantry open Women’s Bible Study Pioneer Clubs (Ministry House)
Wednesday	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Mom Talk <i>(childcare)</i> Soup Supper followed by vespers service
Thursday	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God’s forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.

* ACCLAMATION

All: With angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name; evermore praising you and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory, now and always. 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: *How Deep the Father’s Love for Us* arr. Townend
RACHEL GILMORE, CHRIS GILMORE, KARIN BUURSMA

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away, as wounds which mark the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.	I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom, But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.
Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished. His dying breath has brought me life,; I know that it is finished.	Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

* 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. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S BLESSING
(Children 3 years through 2nd grade are dismissed to go downstairs.)

SILENT CORPORATE INTERCESSORY PRAYER

* HYMN: *Take My Life, and Let It Be* HYMN 585

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: EMILY SMITH, HANNAH BOWMAN

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Ecclesiastes 10:12-20*

¹² Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious,
but fools are consumed by their own lips.
¹³ At the beginning their words are folly;
at the end they are wicked madness—
¹⁴ and fools multiply words.
No one knows what is coming—
who can tell someone else what will happen after them?
¹⁵ The toil of fools wearies them;
they do not know the way to town.
¹⁶ Woe to the land whose king was a servant
and whose princes feast in the morning.
¹⁷ Blessed is the land whose king is of noble birth
and whose princes eat at a proper time—
for strength and not for drunkenness.
¹⁸ Through laziness, the rafters sag;
because of idle hands, the house leaks.
¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter,
wine makes life merry,
and money is the answer for everything.

²⁰ Do not revile the king even in your thoughts,
or curse the rich in your bedroom,
because a bird in the sky may carry your words,
and a bird on the wing may report what you say. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 12:33-37*

³³ “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad,
for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say
anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. ³⁵ A good man brings good
things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil
stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of
judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be
acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

SERMON: *Widespread Wisdom*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING SONG: *Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God* Sung to the tune Dundee

Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel,
for he alone does wondrous works in glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name to all eternity;
the whole earth let his glory fill. Amen, so let it be.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE