



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD • MATTHEW 6:33

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 5, 2023

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (*Congregation sings*)

Howard Whitaker



Seek ye first the king-dom of God, and His right-eous-ness a-lone.  
For His king-dom is not in words, but in the pow'r of the Spir-it.  
in the pow'r of the Spir-it.

### \* 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

\* OPENING SONG: *For All the Saints*

HYMN 358

\* *Congregation stands.*

## WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us approach our God, who opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

**People: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

Leader: Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**People: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**

Leader: Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

**People: There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbor?**

Leader: For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Colossians 1:21-22*)

Leader: And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him.

\* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Please stand)

Franz Schubert  
(Communion book, p. 20)

**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.  
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: *Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

Clarinet Choir

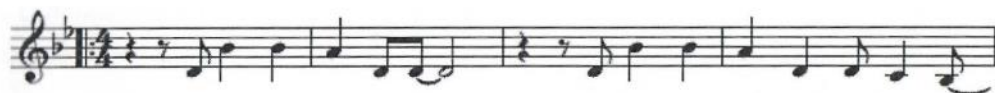
DIACONAL PRAYER

RON HAYDON

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANNIKA DURBIN

*(Children return to their seats.)*



1. I see You hang-ing there,                      nailed to a splin-tered wood-en beam,  
And in those dark, dark hours,                      as life drained from Your flesh and bones,



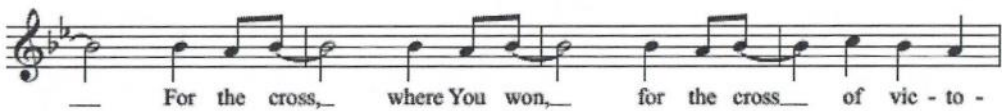
— drink-ing pain and sor-rows, breath-ing a - go-ny.                      And I  
— I know my life had its be - gin-ning at Your cross. —



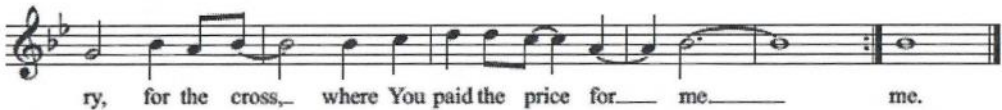
thank You,    thank You:                      For the cross, where You bled, for the cross,



— where You died, for the cross, where You've bro-ken Sa - tan's back. —



— For the cross, where You won, for the cross of vic - to -



ry, for the cross, where You paid the price for me. me.

2. You were my substitute  
In laying down Your life for mine,  
Being cursed and bearing  
The wrath of God for me  
You were crushed by sin.  
Your punishment has brought me peace,  
and by the wounds You suffered  
I'm alive and healed.  
And I thank You, thank You:  
For the cross....

3. Two days in the grave,  
Then You rose up from the dead -  
Now You reign in glory,  
Rule in righteousness.  
And I was raised with You,  
Free at last from all my sin,  
Safe forever in the shelter of my King.  
And I thank You, thank You:  
For the cross....

## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READER: CATHY SAYER

### \* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

*Psalms 28:6-9*

- <sup>6</sup> Praise be to the Lord,  
for he has heard my cry for mercy.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy,  
and with my song I praise him.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is the strength of his people,  
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.  
<sup>9</sup> Save your people and bless your inheritance;  
be their shepherd and carry them forever.

### NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

*Romans 6:11-14*

- <sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.  
<sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

*Romans 8:20-25*

- <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.  
<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. NIV

### \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

MEDITATION: *Governed by the Spirit*

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.*

*Please feel free to partake of the elements as you feel led.*

*If you prefer to be served by an elder who is wearing a face mask and gloves  
please indicate that to the usher at the front of the sanctuary.*

*During Communion Lew Luttrell and Priscilla Heidebrecht 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.)

Behold the Lamb	page 6
Eat This Bread	page 15
Jesus Paid It All	page 29
I Stand Amazed	page 25

**WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE**

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

HYMN 460

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE



## 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."

For several years we have used 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 the 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.

### TODAY

**Thanks to our musicians:** Zak Reynolds, Kent Richter, Andrew Howe, Graham Haydon, Mary Hopper. Clarinet ensemble: Trey Tilitson, Elaina White, Steve Ivester, Samantha Durbin, Howard Whitaker

**If you would like an elder to pray with you after the service,** Sarah Holman will be available near the platform.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open**

**Mothering Together**

**Youth Group**

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Women's Bible Study** (*childcare*)

**Food Pantry**

### COMING

Saturday, Nov. 18

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

**Shower for Amy Vautin Lew**

## **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.



