# Immanuel Presbyterian Church



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

**OUTDOOR SERVICE** 

#### 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** 

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations

what he has done.

All: Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his

holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Pastor: Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

All: Let us remember the wonders he has done, his miracles and the

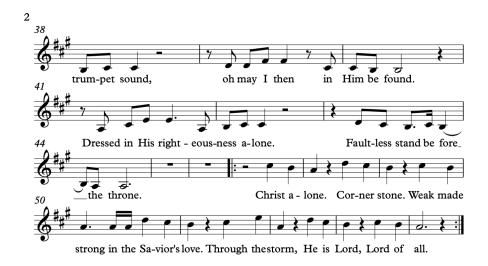
judgments he pronounced. For he is the Lord our God. He remembers

his covenant forever.

<sup>\*</sup> Invocation



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### WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION (In unison)

ALVA STEFFLER

All: 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 silently confess our sin.

Adapted from The Worship Source

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.

\* Song of Acclamation: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Franz Schubert

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.

#### \* Passing of the Peace

has done

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Special Music: King of Love

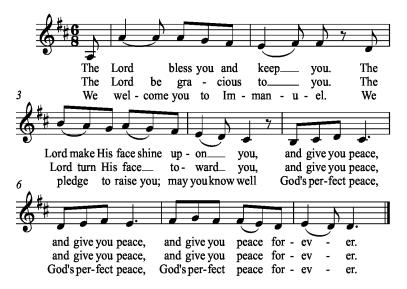
Steven Curtis Chapman ERIC DURBIN

With the hands that formed the world You washed our feet
Kneeling down You laid aside Your majesty
And You said for us to go and do the same
So we serve for the glory of our King

You left heaven's throne to rescue what was lost Stretching out Your mighty arms to bear the cross Then you rolled away the stone, the victory won And You said, go and tell the world what love King of love, let your Kingdom come Reign in us, your daughters and your sons Fill us up, till we overflow With Your love until the whole world knows You are the King of Love

Give us hearts that long to see Your justice done Let the river of Your mercy flow through us Let compassion be the loudest song we sing Till the day when every tongue declares You King

King of love, let your Kingdom come, Reign in us, your daughters and your sons Fill us up, let us overflow With Your love until the whole world knows You are the King of Love BAROCHA Michael Card



Intercessory Prayer Carl Pickard

#### WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

\* HYMN: The Church's One Foundation (Verses 1, 3 & 5)



TEXT: Samuel J. Stone, 1866 MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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

READER: SUE LUNDIN

\* New Testament Scripture: Romans 8:26-30

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. NIV

## \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: God's Goodness in All Things (Part 3)

### WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

\* CLOSING SONG: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I am 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've first begun.

- \* BENEDICTION
- \* Postlude

# **Today**

**If you are in need of prayer**, contact elder Sheroll Ritche (soritchie@gmail.com or 773-551-4568).

**Thanks to our musicians:** Mary Hopper, Seth Ehorn, Heather Reyes, Jack Durbin, Jeff Sands, Peter Welander, Annika Durbin, Eric Durbin

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**Thanks to our** Livestream video crew: Peter Welander, John Economides, Marc Johnson.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Youth Group Zoom We welcome the incoming 6th graders.

**Tonight Zoom with Paul and Leah:** Tonight at 7 p.m., join a meeting to get to know these Immanuel missionaries in South Asia, currently here in the U.S. and often at outdoor worship with mom/grandma Priscilla W. Look for the Zoom link in Friday's newsletter.

## This Week

Tuesday	9:30 a.m 11:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
	11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)

## Why do we baptize infants?

In our culture today, we are not accustomed to thinking of the head of a household as deciding the spiritual commitments of all its dependent members. However, the biblical perspective is that the head of a household represents the family to God and commits them to his worship. The representative role of heads of households has great Scriptural precedent and rich implications in both the Old and New Testaments. (cf Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 11:7)

Does the requirement of faith for salvation preclude the possibility of administering a covenant sign to children of believers? It did not in the Old Testament practice of circumcision, and the New Testament tells us why. The apostle Paul says in the book of Romans that circumcision was a "seal" as well as a "sign" of the righteousness that Abraham had by faith (Rom 4:11).

The seal acted as a visible pledge by the author to honor what He had covenanted to do in a document when the conditions it described were met. Like the seal of a document, the seal of circumcision could be applied long before the recipients of promised and signified blessing met the conditions of the covenant.

The apostle Paul was very explicit about the continuation of the Abrahamic covenant and proclaimed, "Those who believe are children of Abraham" (Gal. 3:7). He goes on to say that the law of Moses "does not set aside the covenant previously established by God. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal.3:17,29). Since the shedding of Christ's blood to remove our sin was prefigured by circumcision, baptism with water has become the sign of the washing away of our sin (cf. Acts 22:6; 16:1; I Cor. 6:11; Heb. 9:14). While the sign of the covenant changes, the features of the covenant do not.

In addition to baptism as the new sign and seal of God's covenant promise, we also feel there is other Scriptural evidence to embrace this sacrament for infants. If the apostles had chosen to exclude infants from baptism, such an important change would have been recorded. The absence of a scriptural command to prohibit administering the sign of the covenant to children after two thousand years of observing such a practice weighs significantly against the view that the apostles wanted only those who were able to profess their faith to be baptized. In fact, when we read the New Testament accounts of baptism, every person identified as having a household present at his or her conversion also had the entire household baptized.

Finally, the devotion of the parents who present their children for baptism places each child in a privileged position both to hear and to understand the truths of the Gospel. The parents together with the covenant community of the church provide spiritual nurture and instruction for the child. The child is surrounded and embraced by the testimony of Christ at every turn in life. In this atmosphere, faith generally germinates and matures so that it is possible, even common, for the children of Christian parents never to know a day that they do not believe that Jesus is their Savior and Lord. Such covenantal growth of a child is, in fact, *the normal Christian life* that God intends for his people based on the Biblical account of his covenant with them throughout history. Thus we consider it a privilege to baptize Dorothy Jane Pickard today.

#### **ELDERS**

Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, 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).