



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD • MATTHEW 6:33

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 8, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *Standin' in the Need of Prayer*
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Spiritual / Wilhelmi
Southern Harmony / Carter
Erneuerton Gesangbuch, 1665 / Carter

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA
BILL FRANCE

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

Pastor: Christ is the mediator of a new covenant. Since he has died for our sins, those who are called may receive the eternal inheritance promised them.

All: **The Lord remembers his covenant forever.**

Pastor: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

HYMN 521

* *Congregation stands.*

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

SARAH HOLMAN

Leader: Those who encountered the true and living God in scripture were overwhelmed with a sense of his majesty and glory, and their own sinfulness. As we encounter the true and living God today, let us together ask for his forgiveness as we consider his character in light of our own.

Leader: Holy and strong One,

People: Forgive our weakness.

Leader: Holy and Wise One,

People: Forgive our foolishness.

Leader: Holy and loving One,

People: Forgive our hardness.

Leader: Holy and generous One,

People: Forgive our selfishness.

Leader: Holy and faithful One,

People: Forgive our fickleness.

Leader: Holy and gentle One,

People: Forgive our toughness.

All: Forgive us, Holy One, forgive.

Adapted from *The Open Gate*

5
9
13

Fa-ther, we have sinned in word, and deed, and thought: through
ig-nor-ance, through weak-ness, through de-li-berate fault. We've
sinned a-gainst our neigh-bors and a-gainst You, Lord. Yet
we are tru-ly sorr-y, and we turn to You once more.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Isaiah 53*)

Leader: Receive God's forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ: he has taken up your infirmities and carried your sorrows; he was pierced for your transgressions and crushed for your iniquities; upon him was the punishment that brings you peace and by his wounds you are healed. Amen.

* ACCLAMATION

All: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. 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: *Jazz Alleluia*

CRAIG CURRY

* DOXOLOGY

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**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

(Children 3 years through 5th grade go downstairs to continue their worship.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

BILL FRANCE

* HYMN: *Before the Throne of God Above*

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me
 3. Be - hold Him there! The ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,
 strong, a per - fect plea, A great High Priest whose name is
 of the guilt with - in, Up - ward I look and see Him
 spot - less Right - eous - ness; The great un change - a - ble I
 "Love," who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
 there who made an end to all my sin. Be - cause the
 AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace! One with Him
 grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His
 sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 self I can - not die, My soul is pur - chased with His
 heart; I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can
 free; For God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on
 blood; My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my
 bid me thence de - part, no tongue can
 Him and par - don me, to look on
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my
 bid me thence de - part.
 Him and par - don me.
 Sav - ior and my God.

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WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: ERIC AND SARAH DIAZ

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 25:6-10*

⁶ On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The Lord has spoken.

⁹ In that day they will say,
“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the Lord, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

¹⁰ The hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain;
but Moab will be trampled in their land
as straw is trampled down in the manure.

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 19:16-26*

¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁷ “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

¹⁸ “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

(continued)

²⁰ “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *The Citizens of the Kingdom*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Be Thou My Vision*

HYMN 642

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: John Zimmerman, Zak Reynolds, Joanna Sire, Immanuel Choir

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, elder **Ron Netzel** will be available near the platform.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Food Pantry open**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Youth Group** (Ministry House)

Prime Timers, sign up today if you'd like to come to the Prime Time Pie Time event on October 21. Food, fun, fellowship.

This Week

Tuesday	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study (<i>childcare</i>)
	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Book Group (<i>Pastor's office</i>)

Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Visitation for John Fitchuk
	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service

Sunday, October 15	Noon - 1:00 p.m.	International Café with Mullinses
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Nominate officers: The big orange box has reappeared in the narthex, ready to receive nominations for the role of elder or deacon. Ideally, these nominations come from you! If you know of someone (who's been a member for at least a year) you'd like to see serving as an elder or a deacon, ask that person if he or she is willing to be nominated. If you get a yes, fill out the form and submit it (or contact Bill France, chair of the Nominating Committee) by November 5. The nominees will watch a series of "Learning for Serving" videos while they continue to consider moving forward. Eventually nominees will meet with elders before confirming nominations. Nominated officers are voted on at the annual church meeting in early February.

Financial Update

Giving through September, cash and stock, totaled more than \$616,000, five percent above our projection (based on the pattern of giving over three years). That leaves \$255,000, or 29% of our operating budget of \$872,000, to be raised in the fourth quarter—praise God for allowing us to be in this good position!

Your generous giving over the past few years has provided sufficient reserves that we are able to pave the entire parking lot at one time this fall, at a considerable saving over spreading it out over three years. Watch for details on scheduling. This is only the first major maintenance project following the recent renovation effort. Next up will be reroofing the church building.

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
29W260 BATAVIA ROAD • WARRENVILLE, IL 60555 • (630) 393-4400
IMMANUELPRESBYTERIAN.NET