

***Sunday, Mar 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent***



Immanuel United Church of Christ

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God Is Still Speaking

Welcome to Immanuel

*Who ever you are, where ever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.*

Spencer Jones

Music Coordinator

Those serving us this Sunday, Mar 10, 2024

Greeters: Gary & Judy Joosten

Ushers: Gary & Judy Joosten

Reader: Pastor

Those serving us next Sunday, Mar 17, 2024

Greeters: Bob & Jean Vande Hey

Ushers: Bob & Jean Vande Hey

Reader: Jean Vande Hey

Please pray for:

Beverly Wilfling

Lemke family

Larry Schroeder

Chuck Wolf

Welcome and Announcements

† indicates congregation is invited to stand
(Please sign the attendance sheet)

Sunday, March 10, 2024—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Story

Call to Worship (L=Leader; P=People)

L: We gather for worship at the invitation of the Spirit, who calls us to give thanks and praise to God.

P: That same Spirit calls us to follow in the footsteps of Christ, proclaiming the good news through acts of kindness and deeds of mercy.

L: Let us answer the call as we worship God with grateful hearts.

Opening Hymn No. 90: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" vss. 1-3
(words adapted)

Joy-ful, joy-ful we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
Hearts un-fold like flow-ers be-fore you, open-ing to the Sun a-bove.
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the dark of doubt a-way.
Giv-er of Im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heav'n re-flect your rays
Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, o-cean blue,
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re-joice in you.

You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o'cean depth of hap-py rest!
You our Fa-ther, Christ our bro-ther, all who live in love are yours.
Teach us how to love each o-ther, 'Til we meet on heav'n's shores.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

We give you thanks, O God, for love that redeems, renews, and calls us to lives of humble service. Join us in these moments of worship. Receive our praises and our prayers, then send us out into the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Responsive Scripture: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (W=Women, **M=Men**)

W: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

M: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those whom he redeemed from trouble and gathered from the ends of the earth.

W: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

M: they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

W: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

M: he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

W: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

M: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

First Reading:

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Epistle Reading:

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of the flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead though our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing, it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Gospel Reading:

John 3: 14-21

“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

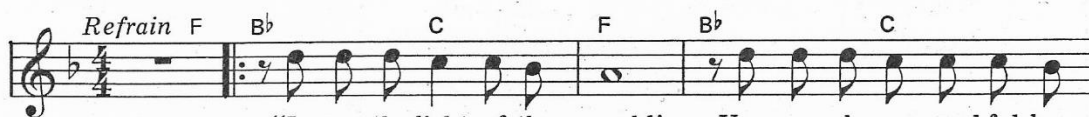
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and the people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

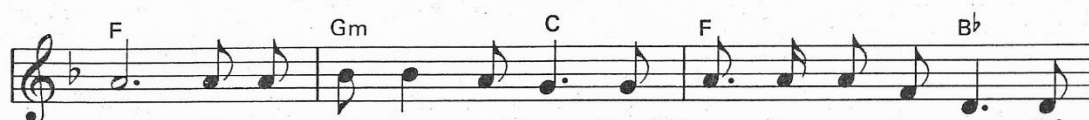
Here ends this reading of the Gospel.

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Howard Thurman
and Jim Strathdee, 1969LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irregular
Jim Strathdee, 1969

"I am the light of the world! You peo-ple come and fol-low



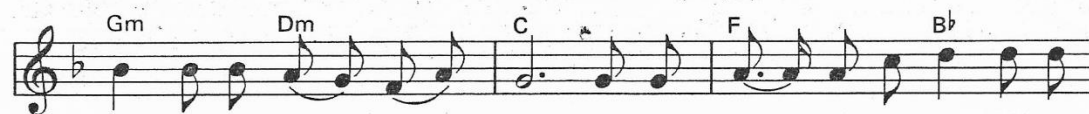
me!" If you fol-low and love You'll learn the mys-ter-y Of



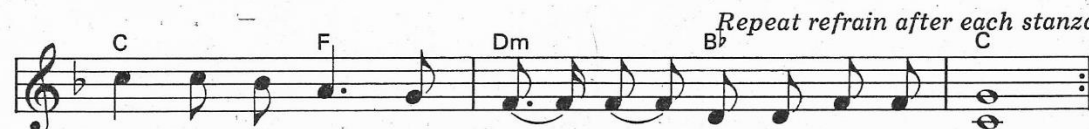
what you were meant to do and be.



1. When the song of the an-gels is stilled When the
2. To find the lost and lone-ly man, To
3. To free the pris-'ner from his chains, To
4. To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, To



star in the sky is gone, When the kings and the shep-herds Have
heal his bro-ken soul with love, To feed the hun-gry chil-dren With
make the pow-er-ful care, To re-build the na-tions With
dance at a ba-by's new birth, To make mu-sic in An



found their way home, The work of Christ-mas is be-gun:
warmth and good food, To feel the earth be-low, the sky a-bove!
strength of good will, To call a manyourbroth-er ev-ery-where!
old man's heart, And sing to the col-ors of the earth!

Hymn No. 201:

“I Am the Light of the World”

Refrain:

“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love
You’ll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the shepherds
Have found their way home,
The work of Christmas is begun:

Refrain:

2. To find the lost and lonely man,
To heal his broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children
With warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above!

Refrain:

3. To free the pris’ner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations
With strength of good will,
To call a man your brother everywhere!

Refrain:

4. To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby’s new birth,
To make music in an old man’s heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!

Refrain:

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen!

Sermon: “Shedding Light on Darkened Hearts—
Illuminating the World with Love”

Offering

Unison Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks, O God, for calling us as partners in the ministry of Jesus Christ, our Lord. In joy and gratitude we bring our gifts and our lives to sustain his work among us. Bless our tithes and offerings, that together we may spread the good news of your love throughout the world. Amen!

Closing Hymn No 203: “We Are Living, We Are Dwelling”

1. We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling;
To be living is sublime.
Hark, the waking up of nations,
Hosts advancing to the fray;
Hark! What soundeth is creation’s
Groaning for the later day.
2. Will ye play, then? Will ye dally
Far behind the battle line?
Up! It is Jehovah’s rally;
God’s own arm hath need of thine.
Worlds are charging, heav’n beholding;
Thou hast but an hour to fight;
Now, the blazoned cross unfolding,
On, right onward for the right!
3. Sworn to yield, to waver, never;
Consecrated, born again;
Sworn to be Christ’s soldiers ever,
O for Christ at least be men.
O let all the soul within you
For the truth’s sake go abroad!
Strike! Let ev’ry nerve and sinew
Tell on ages, tell for God.

Benediction

Postludes

We Are Living, We Are Dwelling

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.

Traditional Dutch Melody

Harm. by T. Tertius Noble, 1918

Arthur Cleveland Coxe, 1840, alt.

Unison

1. We are liv - ing, we are dwell - ing In a
 2. Will ye play, then? will ye dal - ly Far be -
 3. Sworn to yield, to wa - ver, nev - er; Con - se -

grand and aw - ful time, In an age on -
 hind the bat - tle line? Up! it is Je -
 crat - ed, born a - gain; Sworn to be Christ's

a - ges tell - ing; To be liv - ing is sub - lime.
 ho - vah's ral - ly; God's own arm hath need of thine.
 sol - diers ev - er, O for Christ at least be men.

An alternate setting may be found at No. 35.

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Hark, the wak - ing up of na - tions, Hosts ad -
 Worlds are charg - ing, heav'n be - hold - ing; Thou hast
 O let all the soul with - in you For the

vanc - ing to the fray; Hark! what sound - eth
 but an hour to fight; Now, the bla - zoned
 truth's sake go a - broad! Strike! let ev - 'ry

is cre - a - tion's Groan - ing for the lat - ter day.
 cross un - fold - ing, On, right on - ward for the right!
 nerve and sin - ew Tell on a - ges, tell for God.

Office Hours this Week
Pastor's Hours: Tues, Thurs & Fri 10 - 2
Heather's Hours: Tue, Wed(home)Thurs 10-1

Looking Forward

We would like for everyone to please sign the Pew Pads again. This will allow us to know who is at services.

The Food Pantry is open from 12:30-2:30 on the first, second and third Wed of the month. If you or someone you know cannot meet these hours, please talk to Heather or Judy.

Community meal every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Mar 13th Community meal 5pm

Mar 17th Council meeting after service

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE: If you need emergency Pastoral care, call Rev. Tom Fritz at (920-268-5757) Please leave a detailed message. Talk slowly and leave: 1) your name & phone number; 2. which hospital and who the person is and room #; 3. anything else necessary to help him understand the situation. If you need to talk to the secretary, you can reach Heather at 920-734-7843. Any other church concerns, please contact Bob Vande Hey at 920-740-6177.