



IMMANUEL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

transforming tradition

Blessing at the Burning Bush

You will know your path
not by how it shines
before you
but by how it burns
within you,
leaving you whole
as you go from here
blazing with
your inarticulate,
your inescapable
yes.

Jan Richardson

MORNING WORSHIP
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 3, 2023

Ten O' Clock

+ PRELUDE Praise to the Lord, the Almighty *Paul Manz*
 Dr. Stephen E. Carlton, organist

*Welcome to our combined online and onsite worship service.
The order of service is designed for worshipers to participate
virtually from home or in the Sanctuary.*

Please enjoy the prelude as a time of silent preparation for worship.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.*

People: Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name;

All: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
(Psalm 105:1-3)

*+ HYMN 49 (stzs. 1-3) The God of Abraham Praise *Leoni*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Romans 12:9-12

*Leader: Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;*

People: Love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.

Leader: Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

People: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we do not always remember to love You and one another the way You have taught us. We too often overlook Your presence in our lives, failing to persevere in spite of Your promise of hope. We lag in zeal, seeking to serve ourselves, rather than serving You.

+ Worshipers in the Sanctuary may be shown to their pews. * Stand as you are able.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew our hearts, that we might turn again to You, seeking the way of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

* THE PEACE

*Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us forgive one another.*

All: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

* RESPONSE *(the congregation sings)*

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name:
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

+++ *Latecomers may be seated during the response*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURES Matthew 16:13-20

(NT 18)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

The Summons

John Bell

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

Jenny Clark, soloist

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

Noel

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OFFERINGS

*Worshippers in the Sanctuary are invited to sign the red Friendship Folder
in each pew and greet one another following the worship service.*

*Online worshippers are invited to indicate their "presence" by using the
Virtual Worship Sign-in link: <https://bit.ly/IPCVirtualWorshipSignIn>*

OFFERTORY If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Manz

*After the offertory, children are invited to come forward
and join hands around the font for prayer.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY (*the congregation sings*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES Exodus 3:1-15

(OT 50)

Leader: *The Word of God for the people of God.*
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Getting Curious"

Ms. Larson

* HYMN 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Kingsfold

*Worshippers in the Sanctuary turn to the camera on the back wall so that
online and onsite worshippers are facing one another for the closing hymn and benediction.*

* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

God of Grace

Manz

*The flowers are given to the glory of God
by Deborah Block
in celebration of September birthdays ~
aunt, mother, brothers, friends.*

Following the postlude, a minister and elder
will be at the font to receive prayer requests.

Welcome! Members and friends are invited to Coffee Hour in the Parlor. Coffee hosts are Allyson Nemeč, and Lynne Oehlke and Tom Marlett. **Welcome Team** members this morning are Eileen and Keith Pierce and Pat Parks. They are wearing nametags and are available to answer questions about the church and to give tours of the building.

If you are visiting Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its **186th anniversary** this year. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, neighborhoods throughout the city, and as far north as Port Washington, as far south as Kenosha, and as far west as Summit. Our livestream worship extends our community across the country. Committed to "keeping faith in the city," Immanuel supports the Interchange Food Pantry and is active with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity and Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground. Global mission projects reach to Zambia and Cuba. Worship is our first priority and education is emphasized for all ages. Contact Associate Pastor Rob Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org) for more information about Immanuel or church membership.

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is provided until noon. The **Immanuel Nursery** is located on the lower level, to the right of the northeast staircase. Elevator access is also available. There is a "**crying room**" on the **second floor** with sight and sound of the Sanctuary for parents with small children who prefer an alternate space during the worship service.

NEW TO IMMANUEL?

Would you like to learn more?

Please join us **Sunday, September 24 after worship for**
"IPC 101: An Introductory Tour of Immanuel Church."

Interested persons are invited to gather at the Welcome Table in the Great Hall at 11:15 to tour the church building, hear about Immanuel's ministries, and what it means to be a Presbyterian. The tour will last until approximately noon. For more information or to indicate an interest, speak with one of the ministers today or contact Mr. Ater in the church office (robertater@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757).

GATHER IN and BEGIN!

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Reconnect, restart, and celebrate life together

A new program year begins on September 10 and all are invited to celebrate a new season in the life and ministry of Immanuel Church.

+ We begin by reaffirming that we are claimed by God's grace and called to God's community. **The Sacrament of Baptism** will be celebrated during the worship service that morning. Parents wishing to present children for baptism and adults who would like to make a profession of faith should speak with one of the ministers.

+ **The Immanuel Chancel Choir** will return to the loft and invites you to share the joy of choral singing and participating in this important part of our worship. On September 10, the Choir will rehearse at 8:45 a.m. Subsequent rehearsals will be on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Choir Room (lower level). There's a robe for you!

+ **Church School** for children and youth will resume that Sunday. Teachers for 2023-24 will be commissioned and the start of the school year will again be celebrated with a "Blessing of the Backpacks."

+ It's Sundae Sunday! The worship service will be followed by the annual **Ice Cream Social**. Enjoy a sundae and the company of new and old church friends. Servers, hosts, and runners are *still needed* to assist with hosting. If you would like to help, please sign up in the Parlor or follow this link: https://bit.ly/IPC_IceCreamSocialHelpers2023.

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

Although it's always the right time to invite a friend to church, **NEXT Sunday, September 10** is a great time. Do you have a friend, colleague, or family member you would like to introduce to Immanuel Presbyterian Church? Church newcomers most often visit for the first time because someone personally invited them. Consider who in your life might value an invitation to explore their faith in this community.

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

The Immanuel Nursery provides child care for our youngest members every Sunday. We are committed to staffing the nursery with two experienced adults each week - and are seeking new nursery workers to begin in mid-September. If you know of someone who might be interested in this paid position, please contact Ms. Larson (teresalarson@immanuelwi.org) in the church office.

Thank you to this morning's worship volunteers: Ushers - Dick Myers, Steve Jacobs, Mark Connelly, and Victor Plantinga; Camera operator - Christine Karpowicz.

**A CELEBRATION SUNDAY:
OUR MINISTRIES IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

With special guest, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth F. Caldwell

On September 17, Immanuel Church will welcome the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth F. Caldwell as we celebrate our ministries in Christian education for all ages. Dr. Caldwell is Professor Emerita of Educational Ministry and Pastoral Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary and a longtime friend and colleague of Dr. Block. On that Sunday we will commission the 2023-24 confirmation class and present Bibles to young children, fourth graders, and confirmands. Dr. Caldwell is the author of *Growing in God's Love, A Story Bible*, enjoyed by our younger members and their families. Her latest of numerous books is *Pause, Spending Lent with the Psalms*. In addition to preaching on September 17, Dr. Caldwell will give a presentation following worship on the importance of nurturing lifelong Christian formation. Christian education for all ages has been a significant part of Dr. Block's ministry since she began her call at Immanuel Church in 1978. Please join us for this special celebration Sunday.

PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE

Following last spring's announcement by Dr. Block and the Session that she will retire at the end of 2023, the Session directed its Human Resources Committee to search for an interim pastor to guide the congregation and staff through the assessments and planning required in a transition of pastoral leadership. There will be an announcement about the interim pastor later this month.

"CELEBRATION SUNDAYS"

History ... Herstory ... Our Story

We look forward to celebrating our 45+ years of ministry with Dr. Block throughout the coming months. A series of special observances is being planned, including:

Celebrating Our Ministries in Christian Education – September 17

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell preaching

Celebrating Our Denominational Connections – October 1

World Communion Sunday; The Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson preaching

Celebrating Women in Ministry – October 22

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

for Immanuel teachers!

Public school teachers often purchase school supplies out of their own pockets for students who need them. Teachers in our congregation have been contacted about needs for this school year and have requested boxes of Kleenex for classrooms, single subject notebooks, and whiteboard clipboards (dry erase surface). There are baskets for your contributions in the coatrooms. If you are an Immanuel teacher and would like to add items to this list, please reach out to Mr. Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org).



“DOORS OPEN MILWAUKEE”

September 23 and 24

On **September 23 & 24** Immanuel will join 125+ Milwaukee organizations in opening our doors for special tours and hospitality. Sponsored by Historic Milwaukee, *Doors Open Milwaukee* will open buildings of all kinds, throughout Milwaukee, free of charge, allowing the public to explore new places and hidden areas usually off-limits to visitors. Through Immanuel’s participation in this event over the last eleven years, Immanuel has welcomed **over 5,000 visitors** into our church home! **Would you like to help host the event this year?** **Immanuel volunteers** are invited to serve as building hosts and tour guides on both days. Sign-up today in the Parlor or by clicking here: https://bit.ly/IPC_DoorsOpen2023. Questions? Contact Immanuel coordinators: Mr. Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org) or Elder Lindsey McKee (lindseymckee6@aol.com). More information about the event is available at: <https://historicmilwaukee.org/doors-open/>. Sponsored by Historic Milwaukee, Doors Open Milwaukee is now in its 13th year! Immanuel is grateful to have been a part of this popular event from the beginning.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE FORMED

The unfolding consequences of the pandemic and even larger cultural shifts in church membership and religious affiliation pose challenges and opportunities for “being church” in this new day. The Immanuel Session has appointed a special task force to explore the meaning of church membership in our congregation, in our wider community, and in our denomination. Some of the questions the group is considering are: What does Immanuel Church membership look like today? What might it look like tomorrow? In the spirit of “transforming tradition,” what adaptive changes will equip us for continuing faithfulness and vitality? How will changes in technology impact the way people connect with the Church?

Do you have questions you’d like to add to the list? Please reach out to Mr. Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org). Members of the task force are Steve Anderson, Mike Gillard, Terry Lee-Docken, Sibyl McCarley, Lindsey McKee, and the ministers.

MILWAUKEE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Work on this year’s Presbyterian Coalition home (3049 N. 6th Street) continues into the fall. Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, September 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to help lay flooring. Would you like to help?** Register at: <http://groups.mkehabitat.volunteerhub.com/events/index> (group name is Presbyterian Coalition). Volunteers must be 16 and older. If you have questions about volunteering or need help registering, contact Scott Silet (sasilet@gmail.com) or Rob Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org).

A NEW MESSAGE from the COVID Advisory Team

The COVID Advisory Team met recently to review current guidelines and recommendations. Rising rates of positivity and hospitalizations across the country are being monitored. The current predominant strains are giving generally less severe symptoms, more closely mimicking other respiratory viruses (including congestion, sneezing and headache), and less severe cough or fever. This makes testing important to differentiate, and to isolate as needed.

A new booster protective against the current circulating strains is expected to be available in late September or early October. COVID cases are anticipated to peak again from December to February, and the vaccine (and booster) is most protective in the first three months after a dose.

Masking is always welcomed, and is especially encouraged if the regional positivity rates reach 10% (as they have in other regions of the country). Please inform the Immanuel Church office if you test positive within 72 hours of attending an in-person church gathering.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE Responding in Hawaii, Florida, and South Carolina

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is currently responding in both Hawaii to support wildfire recovery efforts and in Florida and South Carolina address the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia which made landfall there this week as a category three storm. PDA will continue to support immediate and long-term recovery efforts once the emergency phase passes. An outreach to partners in Cuba and Mexico to offer solidarity, prayers and resources has also been made.

Immanuel worshipers interested in making contributions to these relief effort may make checks payable to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, indicating "PDA-Hawaii" or "PDA-Idalia" in the memo line. Or, you may give directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700; please include PDA account numbers: DR000165 (Hawaii) or DR000194 ((Idalia). You may also donate online at www.pcusa.org/pda.

HOSPITALITY: *How we say "welcome"*

As a new program year begins and we
reconnect, restart, and celebrate life together
your presence and participation matters!

How will you say "welcome"?

If you would like to help again or for the first time, with the
Welcome, Usher, Coffee Hour, or Camera Operator teams,
please email the church office (ipc@immanuelwi.org) to indicate your interest in
serving in one or more of these ministries of hospitality at Immanuel Church.

"FORWARD SCHOLARS" TUTORING PROGRAM

**Volunteers needed for
2023-2024 school year**



Thank you to the Immanuel tutoring team who served during Forward Scholars inaugural year. While many of the veteran tutors will return, after a successful first year, Forward Scholars needs new tutors for the coming school year. Click here (<https://www.commongroundwi.org/forward-scholars>) for an updated Forward Scholars webpage and details about how to sign-up!

Questions may also be directed to Mr. Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org).

Make a difference in the life of a child!

*A multiracial, broad based community organizing group, **Common Ground** is made up of over 40 congregations, nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and schools in Southeastern Wisconsin, organized to address some of Greater Milwaukee's important social needs in an effective, non-partisan way.*

Immanuel Church was a founding member of Common Ground in 2008.

Learn more at: www.commongroundwi.org.

Questions? Speak with a member of Immanuel's Common Ground Core Team: Margaret Crowley, Martha Mainland, Sharon Rose, or Rob Ater

YOUR OFFERING, here and afar

During the pandemic many members changed their method of giving. Now that passing the offering plates has resumed, you may wish to observe this ritual. Those who are worshipping at home or away may continue their giving by:

1. **Mailing a check** to the office: 1105 N. Waverly Place, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Note in the memo line how you'd like the amount recorded.
2. **Going to our web site at** <https://www.immanuelwi.org/onlinegiving>
3. **Scanning this QR** ("Quick Response") code with your smart phone camera for immediate connection to giving options on the Immanuel site.
4. **Texting 833-712-0259** (number for Immanuel giving only). Enter the amount in a message bubble and you will receive a registration link for payment information and verification by text or email.



WEEKLY CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

SEPT 3 8:45-noon

10:00

11:00-12:00

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

6:00

1:00

7:00

TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Nursery care ~ *Lower level*

Morning Worship; Ms. Larson preaching

Coffee hour in the Parlor

Labor Day; Church Office closed

Meeting of the Board of Deacons ~ *virtual*

Information Technology Committee meeting ~ *virtual*

Church School Committee meeting ~ *virtual*

NEXT SUNDAY

SEPT 10

8:45

8:45-noon

10:00

10:30-noon

11:00-12:00

Sept 11

Sept 12

6:00

6:00

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GATHER-IN SUNDAY, ICE CREAM SOCIAL

INVITE-A-FRIEND!

Choir rehearsal

Nursery care ~ *Lower level*

Morning Worship; Dr. Block preaching

Church School for children and youth ~
The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level

Ice Cream Social ~ *outside, weather permitting*

Choir rehearsal ~ *Choir Room, lower level*

Church Leadership Dinner (Elders, Deacons, Trustees)

The **Immanuel Columbarium** is open today and every Sunday until noon.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING: Worshipers may park behind another car in the Waverly or Telluris/Brico (north) lots. **PLEASE place a Sunday bulletin on your dashboard with your name and cell phone number and move your car immediately after worship.**

**PORTABLE HEARING DEVICES,
LARGE PRINT BULLETINS
AND HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE.
PLEASE ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE**



Bulletins returned to the tables in the Narthex will be recycled.



**IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 North Astor Street
Offices: 1105 North Waverly Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
414.276.4757 www.immanuelwi.org**

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Deborah A. Block	Pastor
Robert W. Ater	Associate Pastor
Teresa A. Larson	Associate Pastor
Susan J. Stoll	Part-time Associate Pastor for spiritual care
William H. Johnstone	Pastor Emeritus
Jean Dow	Associate Pastor Emerita
Steven J. Jensen	Organist
John S. Komasa	Choir Director
James C. Fisher	Parish Associate
Sister Karlyn Cauley	Ecumenical Associate
Crystal Stinemates	Program and Office Administrator
Sarah Campbell	Part-time Financial Administrator
Nathan Wesselowski	Sexton

September 3, 2023