

# Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Traditional Worship Service  
September 24, 2023  
11:00am

*Discovering and displaying Christ  
in here and out there*

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

(\*Please stand as you are able)

PRELUDE

*Largo from "Xerxes"*

G.F. Handel

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and rekindled hearts we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.*

WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Haven Totes, Jonathan Cain

PRAYER OF ADORATION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 85*

One: Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**All: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

One: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**All: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

One: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**All: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

One: Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

\*HYMN

*Give to the Winds Thy Fears*

Walter

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Heb. 4: 14-16*

One: "Remember that our Lord Jesus Christ can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need." Let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors**

as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Jer. 33:8*

One: Hear the good news from the prophet Jeremiah: "I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me." Be at peace, in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and set free to serve the living God!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

#### \*SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

Pardini



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Genesis 45: 1-28* NRSVue

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own

mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him. <sup>16</sup> When the report was heard in Pharaoh’s house, “Joseph’s brothers have come,” Pharaoh and his servants were pleased. <sup>17</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your animals and go back to the land of Canaan. <sup>18</sup> Take your father and your households and come to me, so that I may give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you may enjoy the fat of the land.’” <sup>19</sup> You are further charged to say, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. <sup>20</sup> Give no thought to your possessions, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’” <sup>21</sup> The sons of Israel did so. Joseph gave them wagons according to the instruction of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. <sup>22</sup> To each one of them he gave a set of garments, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five sets of garments. <sup>23</sup> To his father he sent the following: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. <sup>24</sup> Then he sent his brothers on their way, and as they were leaving he said to them, “Do not quarrel along the way.” <sup>25</sup> So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. <sup>26</sup> And they told him, “Joseph is still alive! He is even ruler over all the land of Egypt.” He was stunned; he could not believe them. <sup>27</sup> But when they told him all the words of Joseph that he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. <sup>28</sup> Israel said, “Enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I must go and see him before I die.”

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON SERIES  
SERMON

When Dreams Come True  
*A Dream Comes True*  
Rev. John C. Tittle

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Rom. 8: 1, 28, 38, 39*

**All: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

\*HYMN

*O God, in a Mysterious Way*

Scottish Psalter

OFFERTORY

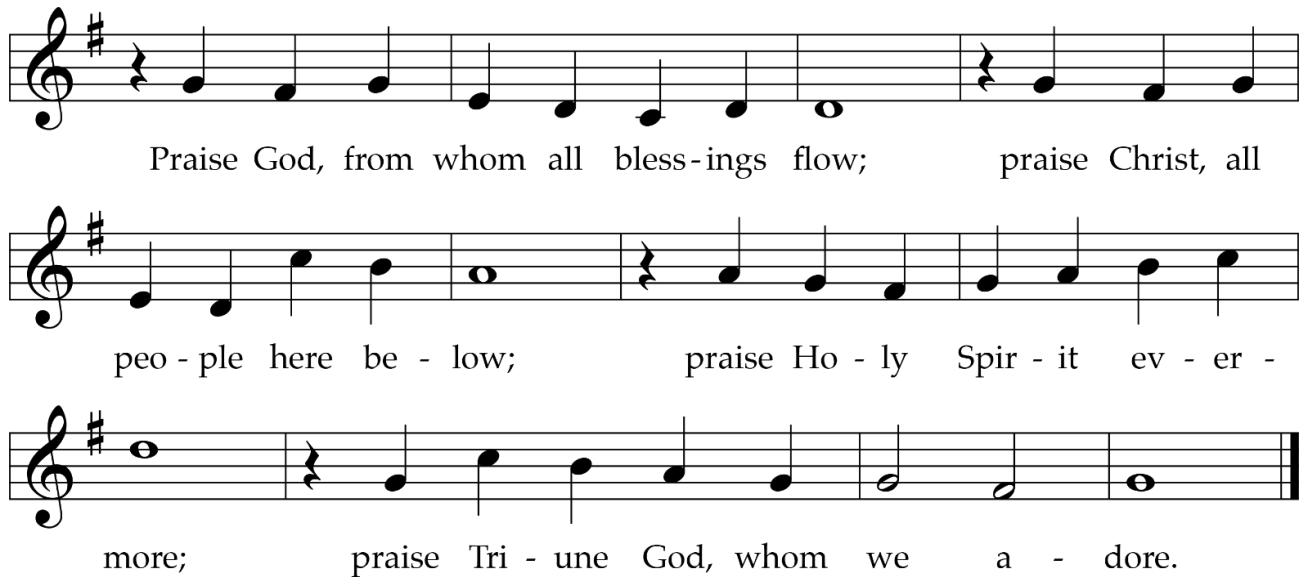
*Amazing Grace*

Arr. Gaulke

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Hopson



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all  
peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -  
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All:** Patient Lord, you amaze us each day with your ability to forgive our many sins. You display merciful acts and answer our prayers in profound ways. Help us to be good stewards of your mercy and grace as these monetary gifts are transformed into active ministries. Multiply the reach of these ministries to impact people in new ways. We pray in the name of the one who teaches true forgiveness, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

One: Lord in your mercy,  
**All:** hear us and be gracious to us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.

\*HYMN

*Eternal Faith, Strong to Save*

Whiting

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me*

White

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John C. Tittle

Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Becky Diebold, hymn leader

Tim Bacchus, soloist

Laurie Emery, lay reader

Ed Vander Woude, Bradley Bishop and Michael Dungan - audio visual

Acknowledgments:

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Hymns are selected from the Presbyterian Blue Hymnal (available at your seats) and the Glory to God hymnal

Bulletin Art: *"I Am Joseph"* by Shoshannah Brombacher, pastel and ink on paper, New York, 2008, [chabad.org](http://chabad.org)

