

INTO THE PRESENCE

Gathering Music and Chiming of the Hour

Words of Welcome
Prayer Requests

Pastor Heppenstall

Prelude and Personal Preparation

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Music by William B. Bradbury, based on an arrangement by Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn #31 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

*Prayer of Adoration

Special Music “Come, Jesus, Come”

*by Tara McWhirter, Stephen McWhirter,
Hank Bentley and Bryan Fowler; Glenda Blake, soloist*

Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray
Come, Jesus, come, let today be the day
Sometimes I feel like I'm gonna break
But I'm holding on to a hope that won't fade.

(Refrain) Come, Jesus, come, we've been waiting so long
For the day You return to heal every hurt and right every wrong
We need You right now, come and turn this around
Deep down I know this world isn't home, come, Jesus, come.

There'll be no war, and there'll be no chains
When Jesus comes, let today be the day
He'll come for the weak and the strong just the same
And all will believe in the power of His name. **(Refrain)**

One day He'll come and we'll stand face to face
Come and lay it all down, 'cause it might be today
The time is right now, there's no need to wait
Your past will be washed by rivers of grace. **(Refrain)**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer *(Debts)* *Kathleen Robbins*

*Sharing the Gift of Peace to All, Passing the Peace

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And Also with you!

As Christ shared His peace with us

let us share Christ's peace with one another.

(Please greet those around you and return to your places as the Peace Hymn begins.)

*Peace Hymn #389 “Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands” *(verses 1 and 5)*

**Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.
Put Christ into each other's hands, He is love's deepest measure;
In love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.**

INTO THE WORD

Reading from the Psalms Psalm 146

Laurel Newton

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Response: Thanks be to God!

*Sung Response #454 “He Came Singing Love” *(verse 1 only)*

He came singing love and He lived singing love;
He died singing love. He arose in silence.
For the love to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

Pastor Heppenstall

“What the Landowner Chose”

Text: “Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?” Matthew 20:15

Moments for Quiet Reflection

*Hymn #359

“Give Thanks”

Call for the Offering

Kathleen Robbins

Offertory

“Once to Every Man and Nation”

Music by Thomas J. Williams

*Song of Dedication #261 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

(Verse 4 only)

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Holy God,

Let our offering declare to the world who You are...

Let our generosity declare that You are generous...

Let our compassionate giving, especially for the poor, reflect Your care
for the whole world...

Let our sacrificial giving remind us of all we have received through the
sacrifices of others...

and most especially through our Lord Jesus, the Christ...

in whom we pray. Amen.

INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn #48

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Benediction

*Unison Charge in Song

Let us go out into the world in peace.
With courage as we hold to what is good.
Return to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint of heart; support the weak;
help those who suffer; honor all people.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Let us go out into the world in peace. Amen.

Postlude

“Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”

An African-American spiritual

(Many people at Immanuel prefer to be seated to listen to the Postlude.

If you need to leave, please do so quietly. Thank you.)

Everyone is invited to join us for coffee time after worship in the MacDonald Room.

~~COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS~~

*(If you have an announcement to share with the community please come to the
microphone at the front of the sanctuary.)*

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Our Lay Reader this morning is **Laurel Newton**.

Our Liturgist this morning is **Kathleen Robbins**.

Our Cantor this morning is **Mark Ballard**.

PRAYING TOGETHER AT IMMANUEL:

Please pray for our:

Local Mission: Please pray for the work and witness of the **Peace Choir**.

Denominational Mission: Each year, American Baptists come together through the **America for Christ** (AFC) Offering to support ministries that bring healing, hope, and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico. The 2026 America for Christ Offering invites congregations to reflect on how faith is shared, remembered, and lived out across generations. We will share information about the America for Christ offering each week this month and dedicate our offering on Palm Sunday. Special envelopes are in the bulletins if you would like to participate.

If you have someone you would like us to keep in prayer please put their names on the **Prayer List on the table in the Narthex**.

**(Indicates the Congregation will please stand as you are able.)*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL CHURCH!

We are blessed by your presence with us and pray that in a deep and abiding way the power and presence of the living God will touch your life as you are with us this morning. We welcome you to a safe, vibrant, loving space where everyone may experience healing and growth. The vision of Immanuel is to spread Jesus' message of love, peace and justice and to provide a safe, loving, welcoming environment where everyone can study, grow and heal.

The **Personal Preparation** on the front cover is offered as a doorway to meaningful worship this morning. Sometimes we pray it together and other times we will share it in silence during the morning Prelude. We encourage you to "be still and know" the living God. Immanuel means "God is with us."

Feeding the Body, Nourishing the Spirit

In Lincoln, Nebraska, a warm meal becomes a living story of compassion and community.

Every Saturday on K Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, the doors of

First Baptist Church open wide for a sacred purpose. Volunteers from First Baptist and other congregations sharing the facility gather to prepare meals, offer kindness, and build relationships with neighbors experiencing homelessness or food insecurity. This ministry, called the K Street Lunch Project, is about far more than food; it is about healing hearts and restoring dignity.

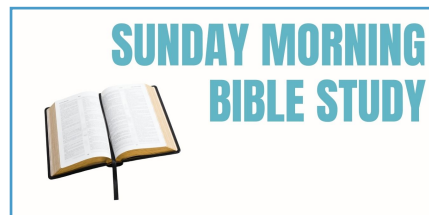
With support from an American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) grant, First Baptist has served over 5,000 meals each year since 2023. "The food is just the beginning," says Rev. Joy Martinez- Marshall, the former pastor of First Baptist. "The deeper work is building relationships." Through shared tables and open hearts, volunteers and guests alike experience the nourishment of faith made tangible.

The ministry has expanded to include local businesses, retirement communities, and volunteers from various faith backgrounds, showing how compassion bridges differences. In a city where many face poverty and displacement, the K Street Lunch Project has become a place of belonging, where everyone is known by name and welcomed as part of God's family.

COME JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY!

9:15 in the McDonald Room

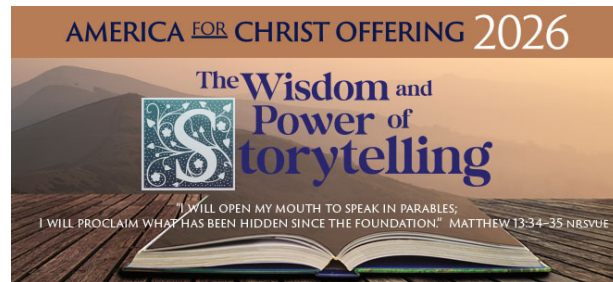
Share in a time a of quiet reflection as Bible passages intersect our daily lives.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

APRIL 12TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP

We will consider the proposed changes to the Immanuel Constitution and By-laws. These have been distributed in the **Heart to Heart** Newsletter.



THE IMMANUEL COMMUNITY LENTEN PREACHING SCHEDULE

NEXT SUNDAY: MARCH 22ND - FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor Heppenstall to Preach:
"The Words We Hope Hear"

Text: "Well done, good and trustworthy slave..." Matthew 25:23

HOLY WEEK AT IMMANUEL

March 29th - Palm Sunday

Pastor Heppenstall to Preach:
"On Being Taken By Surprise"

Text: "As you did it to the least of these..." Matthew 25:40

Maundy Thursday at Immanuel - April 2nd

Maundy Thursday is the most sacred night of the Christian year. It is the night on which our Lord instituted the Lord's Supper.

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for a special candlelight worship service and we will remember how the disciples denied, ran away and left Jesus. We also remember that the prayer of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane was **"Not my will but Thy will."** We will leave the service in reflective silence that evening. Come and join us!

Ecumenical Mass - Tuesdays at 12:10 PM

March 17th - Rev. Mark Ballard to Preach

March 24th - Rev. Patti LaRosa to Preach

March 31st - Kathleen Robbins to preach

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY FOR IN-PERSON OR ZOOM WORSHIP

at Immanuel beginning at 10:45 am

To join us via Zoom, it is the same Zoom link as always:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5854737664>

Meeting ID: 585 473 7664 One tap mobile:

+16465588656, 5854737664

Zoom Pass Code: q9jBwM

SERVING CHRIST AND YOU AT IMMANUEL

Rev. Mr. Robert B. Heppenstall III - Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Richard Myers - Pastor Emeritus

Andrew Cooke - Director of Music Ministries

Elizabeth Heppenstall - Director of Communications

Caleb See - Artist in Residence

Board of Ministry

Michael Marshall - Chair

Andrew Cooke - Vice-Chair

Members At Large

David Schraiver

Fred Kentner

Laurel Newton

Clerk

Kathleen Robbins

Financial Secretary

The Rev. Mr. Paul Vick

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2026

Welcome to Immanuel Baptist Church

"Spreading Jesus' message of love, peace and justice and providing a safe, loving, welcoming environment where everyone can study, grow and heal."

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Almighty and eternal God: our eyes cannot see You, our hands cannot touch You. You are beyond the understanding of our minds. Yet You have breathed Your Spirit into our spirits. You have formed our minds to seek You, inclined our hearts to love You, called us to be heirs of Your eternal kingdom. Please give us faith to lay hold of things unseen, to live as those who see the invisible God, Bring us at last to those things beyond our seeing, beyond our hearing, beyond our imagining, to the vision of Your glory when we shall see You face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.