



**Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel  
(Restoring Energy, Faith, and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)  
March 29, 2026**

## **Welcome to ReFresh at Emmanuel**

Welcome Visitors! We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Thank you for worshiping with us. We strive to live as a Safe and Healing Spiritual Community for all who come, regardless of socio-economic status, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or spiritual path. All are welcome in this holy space.

We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at our 9:00 am Calvary/Emmanuel Traditional Worship Service in the chapel or our ReRefresh 10:30 am Service either in person or on ZOOM. The Recorded Service is available on Facebook after the service.

To gather online by computer, tablet, or smartphone, use the following link.  
<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726742888?pwd=WFEwOVBXZGd3OHFzSXQ1WXIVTHppZz09>

**Don't forget to sign the greeting cards for our Emmanuel Family Members.**  
**The cards are on the table in front of the Celebration Room.**

### **Assisting in Worship Today**

Presider: Pastor Frank Langholz

Lector: Kathlyn Wright

Special Music: Tim & Emily Austin

Susan & David Lippert

Coordinator of Adult Music Ministry: Tim Fenelon

Accompanist: Clea Arbogast

Altar Guild: Brenden Noble

Consultant: Bill Houtkamp

Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt

Greeting Cards: Taj Guzzardo

### **Happenings at Emmanuel**

**Yoga With Claudette Pirrello, Mondays at 5:00 pm & Thursdays at 1:00 pm**

**Cardio Drumming, Mondays at 4:00 pm, Call Beth, (815) 742-0548, to join**

**Spiritual Journey's on Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am on Zoom**

**Bible Study on Wednesdays at Noon on zoom.**

**Dial 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 893 5688 8344 Passcode: 11999**

To join by a land line or cell phone, dial the number above and then enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted. **Bible Study will resume Wednesday, 4/8.**

**Belly Dancing will resume in the spring.**

**Date: March 29, 2026**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
**Living the Vision**

**Processional Gospel:** Matthew 21: 1-17

**21** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “It is written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’

but you are making it a den of robbers.”

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry <sup>16</sup> and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies

you have prepared praise for yourself?’”

<sup>17</sup> He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

**Procession:** Jesus is Coming, Pave the Way with Branches (ACS 928)

(Verses 1-4 Repeat verse 1)

\*Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.

Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.

Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -

san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

*\*Additional verses ad lib.:*

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

## Welcome

Pastor Frank Langholf

**Meditation:** "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world." — Joel A. Barker

## **Our Community Declaration:**

**Guided by Spirit's Wisdom, Inspired by Creator's Imagination,  
Centered in Christ's Love, and knowing that God is our Source,  
Emmanuel is a Spiritual Community that is progressive, inclusive, creative, and  
called to serve.**

## **Opening of the Heart**

**Leader:** The palm branches we throw down—  
the royal carpet for His passing—  
are our own lives,  
offered as hallelujahs.

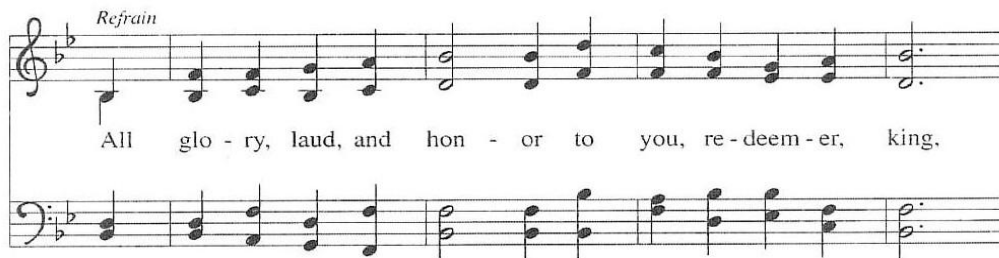
**All:** **What joy is ours as we take our place  
in the great procession of life,  
heralding and blessing  
this One who comes in your name,  
and all who are coming  
with a song of holiness on their lips  
and a yearning for wholeness in their hearts.**

## **Proclamation of Grace:**

**Presider:** The Good News is we are beloved children of God. We live in the promise of Christ, and NOTHING can ever separate us from God's love.

## Gathering Song: All Glory Laud and Honor (ELW 344)

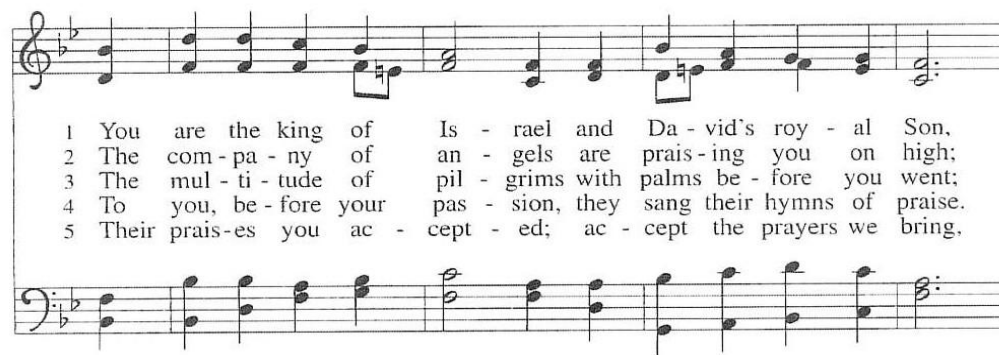
*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

**Reading:** The Poet Thinks about the Donkey, by Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem

the donkey waited.

Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,  
he stood and waited.

How horses, turned out into the meadow,

leap with delight!

How doves, released from their cages,  
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.

Then he let himself be led away.

Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!

And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.

Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.

I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,  
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.

**Scripture/Meditation Song:** Open Your Hearts (Covenant 336) Verse 1, no refrain

Open your hearts, all you who hear this,

Open your hearts to know God's love,

Open your hearts to hear his message,

Jesus makes us one.

**Scripture:** Selections from Matthew 27

Presider: This is the witness of an early Christian community.

**All: May we find wisdom for our living.**

**Sermon** Pastor Frank Langholf

**Offering**

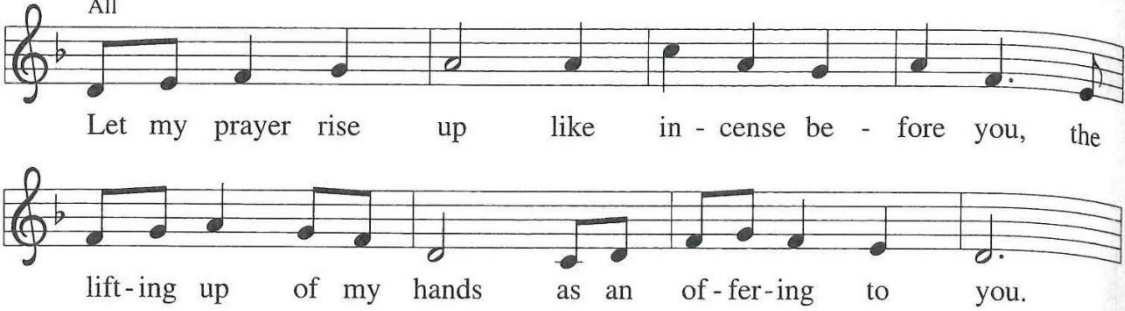
Presider: We take this time now to offer our gifts and intentions.

**Special Music:** Lead Me To The Cross, by Hillsong United  
Tim and Emily Austin, Susan and David Lippert

**Time for Gratitude**

**Prayer Song:** Let My Prayer Rise Up (ELW 232) Refrain

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the  
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a period, and the second staff ends with a period.

**Prayers of the People**

Allison, Julaine, Ray, Jim, Wanie, Norm, Jennie,  
Deborah, Jerry, Miguel, Kathy, Steve,  
Netha, Andrea, Ruth Ann.

Please pray for the family and friends of Donna Anderson who passed away Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Her Memorial Service is planned for Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel. Burial will be family only.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Mother and Father,**

**in whom we move and breathe and have our being,**

**The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.**

**May your peace and love, justice and equality,**

**inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.**

**Grant that we might all have our daily needs met—and that we all find a loving community to belong to and call our own.**

**Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your children. Forgive us for the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged unique expressions of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear,**

**As we forgive those who might have failed us.**

**Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

**Sending Song:**

**Were You There (ELW 353)**

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

## Benediction

## Sharing of Peace

### Soul Garden Hikes

Wednesday, April 8th 10:00am

#### **Cedar Cliff**

7901 Kishwaukee Road, Stillman Valley, IL 61084

Saturday, April 25th 10:00am

#### **Deer Run**

5691 River Road, Cherry Valley, IL 61016



Please call or text Holly, 815-543-1191, if you are planning on coming to hike, so the group will know you are coming.

### Events Today!

David and Susan Whitacre invite you to enjoy Birthday Cake and Music to Celebrate Susan's Birthday!

11:30 – 12:30 in the Celebration Room

#### and

#### Drumming with Helen Bond

Helen will be at Emmanuel today,

Sunday, 3/29

From 1:00 to 3:00pm

Come join the Drumming Circle

### Women's Interfaith Potluck

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

The Unitarian Universalist Church,

4848 Turner St., Rockford.

Regina Cook-Glanton and Deb Whinnery will discuss the mission and work of the "All Faiths Group" of "Eliminate Racism 815".

All women are invited to attend the interfaith potlucks, which start at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Plates, silverware, and beverages will be provided, but you are always welcome to bring your own plate and silverware if you wish.

Please join us

### **Holy Week**

March 29<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday, the Service will be 10:30 am as usual  
We will process into the Sanctuary with palms.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Maundy Thursday, the Service will be at 6:30 pm and  
There will be foot washing and communion.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Good Friday, the Service will be at 5:00 pm.  
We will walk around the block with the stations.  
Wear appropriate clothing for the weather.

April 4<sup>th</sup>, Holy Saturday, 5:00 pm  
We will be expressing a "Celebration of Grace, Grief, and Gratitude"  
In honor of our church and our ancestors.

April 5<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday Services  
6:30 am Sunrise Service in the Labyrinth  
10:30 am Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Avenue, Rockford, IL 61104  
Mailing address, P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110  
815-963-4815 Fax: 815-963-4808 emmanuelchurch07@ gmail.com  
elcrockford.org  
Pastor Frank Langholf, phone 309-509-5241, email:  
[fslangholf@gmail.com](mailto:fslangholf@gmail.com)

## **Emmanuel Is Offering Scholarships for 2026-2027**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church values the youth of our congregation and community. We support youth as they enter adulthood in a variety of ways. One of ways we support youth is through providing scholarships for those who are pursuing higher education.

I encourage you to share this opportunity with your graduating seniors who are pursuing higher education. We look forward to receiving applications, and then awarding this scholarship to support young adults in the next step in their life. All applications must be received either by mail at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110, or email to emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com by May 30, 2026.

Applications can be obtained through the church office.

Thank you,  
Pastor Frank Langholf  
The Scholarship Committee  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church

## **SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **LUNDE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Available to either a male or female member or family member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church who will be a college junior, senior, or graduate student in any area of college study.

### **OLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Available to members or family members of Emmanuel, to high school seniors, and to college students, that attend a Christian church, for purposes of general education, including higher education and college studies, or for any other educational purposes.

## **WALQUIST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Available to members of Emmanuel, to high school seniors, and to college students who are members of a Lutheran Church in the Rockford area and who are enrolled in college studies, and for any other educational purposes.

Selections will be based on many criteria:

1. Spiritual involvement and motivation.
2. Scholastic achievement.
3. Financial need.
4. Leadership and extra-curricular activity.
5. Strength of recommendations.
6. Quality of application materials.