

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
CROP Hunger Walk
October 18, 2026



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

Holden, Massachusetts 01520

(508) 829-4416

www.immanuelholden.org

facebook.com/immanuelholden

instagram.com/ilcholden

*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Music by the ILC Strummers

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

sit

Celebration Song *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* Traditional
(see song sheet in the back of the bulletin)

Children's Chat

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of Praise

Come, All You People

Hymn 819

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?”

²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this they were amazed and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day

Oh, Sing to the Lord

Hymn 822

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Hear us, O God,

your mercy is great.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Music*Hakuna Mungu Kama We He*

G. Gilpin

Hakuna Mungu kama wewe (*There is no God like you*)
Hakuna na hatakuweko! (*None and none will ever exist!*)
Nimetembea kote, kote (*I've walked all over, all over*)
Nikatafuta kote, kote (*I've searched everywhere, everywhere*)
Nikazunguka kote, kote (*I've walked around, all around*)

*stand***Offertory Canticle***We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

Hymn 681

We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure—our humble, thankful hearts.
All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our
neighbors, today and always.

Amen.**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in
all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and
the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on
earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

p. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

Tuya Es La Gloria

Hymn 849

The Peace of the Lord

Hymn 646

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light

Hymn 866

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ministers – the people of Immanuel

Pastors – Pastor Sarah Barnes

203-518-0327 | pastor.sarah@immanuelholden.org

Pastor Josh Ferris

360-244-9207 | pastor.josh@immanuelholden.org

Parish Admin & Online Ministry Coordinator – Jen Greene (M-Th)

508-829-4416 | office@immanuelholden.org

Music Director – Claire W. Paquette | music@immanuelholden.org

Nursery School Directors – Amy Drzik, Kristine Whittemore

Gym Coordinator – Walter Shanahan | gym@immanuelholden.org

Sexton – Don Roberts

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Josh & Jen Greene, Carter Gowdy

Assisting Minister – Jill Zitzewitz

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jim Anderson

Greeter – Linda Josephson

Acolyte – James Dellecese

Children's Word – Greta Gridley & Heidi Lahey

Coffee Hour Host – Ken & Kathy Cranson

Altar Service – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey

Counting Team – Arlette Peterson, Sheri Parretti

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday: Psalm 144, Ezekiel 19:10-14, 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday: Psalm 144, Isaiah 27:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday: Psalm 144, Song of Solomon 8:5-14, John 11:45-57

Thursday: Psalm 23, Isaiah 22:1-8a, 1 Peter 5:1-14

Friday: Psalm 23, Isaiah 22:8b-10, James 4:4-10

Saturday: Psalm 23, Isaiah 24:17-33, Mark 2:18-22

Sunday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8,
Matthew 22:34-46

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour (Rooms 2, 5, and 6)
	1:00 pm	CROP Hunger Walk
Monday	5:00 pm	Youth Group
	9:00 am	Lectio Divina (Zoom)
	9:30 am	Women's Circle (Room 5)
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Monday Night Bible Study (Room 6)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday	7:00 pm	Confirmation (Room 6)
	10:30 am	Thursday Morning Bible Study (on Zoom)
	11:45 am	Staff Meeting
	3:00 pm	<i>Herald Deadline</i>
Sunday	6:00 pm	Book Club
	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour (Rooms 2, 5, and 6)

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. We thank Ken & Kathy Cranson for hosting today!

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Elaine and Mark Vetter in celebration of our grandson Maverick's first birthday. *NOTE: If you would like to sign up for Sunday flowers, see the flower chart in Lawson Hall.*

Children's Word – Children age 3 to grade 5 are invited to go with our trained volunteers after the Children's Chat to worship in kid-friendly ways, returning in time for communion.

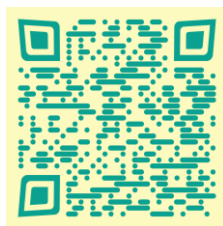
Adult Forum – Join the Maker’s Ministry in room 6 after worship to cut out the hands that were traced during Kick-off Sunday and to discuss the next steps of the Welcome Banner project.

Godly Play – Come learn after church! Toddlers and pre-readers are invited to learn through play. Each week this fall we explore a different parable. Join us in room 2.

Faith Quest – Explore scripture in fun ways in Faith Quest! Today, we’ll continue to learn about Moses. Go to room 5 when you hear the bell!

Youth Group – We are gathering today after the CROP Walk! All Youth (and friends) in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us. We’ll get together at 5:00pm to eat dinner, have some fun, and share some joy. This month we’ll be talking about politics, cynicism, and how we can have hope for the future.

Estimate of Giving Cards – Thank you to everyone who has returned their “Estimate of Giving” card. So far we’ve received 72 cards and are hoping to receive one from each Immanuel household. If you haven’t done so yet, please fill out a card and return it to the office to help us budget for the year ahead. Grab one from the usher’s table or use this QR code.



Servant Connect Forms – Have you filled out a Servant Connect yet? We’re using these simple forms to help us connect people with ministry and mission opportunities that match their gifts and passions. Every member of our church is asked to fill one out! You can get one from the usher table in the back or use this QR code.

Service for Joy Cohen – Thank you to all who baked and volunteered to help with the service and reception yesterday.

CROP Hunger Walk – Today is the CROP Walk! We’re joining with multiple churches to walk, raise money, and combat hunger through Church World Services. If you’d like to walk or give, please talk to Kathy Mills in Lawson Hall after worship – or just show up! The walk begins this afternoon at 1:00pm. See you there!

Guest Preacher Absent Today – While we hoped to welcome Reverend Marilyn Kendrix as our guest preacher today, unfortunately she was unable to make it because of a severe family medical emergency. We'll plan to welcome her sometime in the spring!

Reformation/Confirmation Sunday – On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday! As part of our celebration, you are invited to wear red. We will also celebrate with Niko Figueiredo and James Dellecese as they are confirmed!

Medicare for All? – On Sunday, October 25, during Adult Forum, guest speaker Ben Vient will share his experience of healthcare outside of the United States, and advocate for healthcare reform where all people regardless of employment status have access to the care they need. Join us for discussion on how we as citizens can focus our advocacy on equality and help re-imagine democracy.

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 9:00–9:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 814 8663 8380 Passcode: scripture)

Women's Circle – Join us this Monday, October 19 at 9:30 am in room 5 – all are welcome!

Confirmation – New and returning confirmation students will meet on Wednesday, October 21. We'll meet in room 6 from 7:00-8:30pm. A parent is invited to stay for this first class.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Join us every Thursday at 10:30am on Zoom! We're discussing the book of Daniel together and would love to have you with us! The link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597>.

Book Club – Join us on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00pm in room 6 to discuss Theo of Golden by Allen Levi.

Spirituality for the Home Stretch – Join our senior spirituality group will meet again on Tuesday, November 3 at 1:00pm in the choir room. We'll discuss chapters 11 and 12 of *Looking for God*. New members welcome!

Florence House Gift Bags – Florence House is a ministry in Worcester that supports young mothers and their children. For Halloween, we're hoping to collect some items to put into gift bags for the mothers and kids. Items may include books for the children, teal pumpkin items, cosmetics, etc. (no candles please). Please get all items to the church office by October 26 so we have time to prepare and deliver them.

Dismas Farm – On Thursday, October 29, we will be serving dinner at Dismas Farm. The menu will be pumpkin soup, crusty bread, shepherd's pie, tossed salad, and apple crisp for dessert. You can sign up by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/2n5drdyb> or check out the board at the back of the sanctuary. If you want to join us in visiting the farm and sharing the meal, please write that next to your name when you sign-up!

All Saints Sunday – As part of our remembrance on Sunday, November 1, we'll name aloud during both worship services loved ones who have died in the past twelve months. If you would like the name of a loved one included in the service, please fill out today's bulletin insert and return it to the church office. To remember the saints who have gone before us, you're also invited to bring a picture of a loved one who has passed, which will be placed on the altar. Pictures can be emailed to Pastor Sarah or dropped off in her office between Sunday, October 25 and Friday, October 30. A frame is preferable but not required.

Prayer & Share – We'll gather again on Saturday, November 14 at 10:00a in the Choir Room. Please bring your bible. Join us!

Positivity Pouches – Have you shared some positivity with our Youth Group recently? Drop a note of encouragement or some kind words in their pouches in Lawson Hall! Cards and small gifts encouraged!

Homeless Kits – You can grab a homeless kit – and small bags of period products – from Lawson Hall for you to hand out to someone in need.

Communion Kits – Personal kits are available in the locker outside Lawson Hall. Each kit contains a pre-packaged wafer and grape juice.

Stephen Ministry – Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one, confidential care to those experiencing a difficult time. Please let one of the pastors know if you'd like to connect with one.

We are currently collecting:

Period Products – Unscented pads and tampons, individually wrapped, of all sizes and brands, handed out at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Greeting Cards – New greeting cards of all kinds (except Christmas), which are given to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Bras – Bras in good condition of any size, color, or style, which will be given to veterans in need. Contact Mary Donev (mary@donev.com).

Wachusett Food Pantry – Non-perishable, unexpired food items for the Wachusett Food Pantry (serving all Wachusett Towns).

In Your Prayers this Week

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, David Beams, Mary Beams, Bob, Heidi Besse, Tina Bodnar, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Bonnie Colon, Dale, Colleen Davison, Lauren Demerjian, Christina Deyo, Kim, Kevin Duguay, Tom Durant, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Tim Fournier, Linda Friedman, Sonja Githmark, Ann Marie Grambo, Victoria Graves, Dolores Hadady, Bill Higgins, Erika, Rich Hopkins, Robin Johns, Dick Johnson, Jan Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Ray Langevin, Jean Lane, Cristie Marsh, Family of Alwin Masselink, James Mellor, Darin Narum, Joanne Neal, Mark Novak, Don Phaneuf, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Arthur Savage, Anita Slater, Marshall Smith, Maria Taylor, Tony, Elaine Vetter, George Vogel, Scott, Liz Wilson, Jim & Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.

Prelude Music

Sing Hosanna! (Give me oil in my lamp)

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Keep me burning till the break of day. (**Refrain**)

Refrain

Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing
Give me joy in my heart, I pray
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing
Keep me singing till the break of day. (**Refrain**)

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting
Give me peace in my heart, I pray
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting
Keep me resting till the break of day. (**Refrain**)

This Little Light of Mine

Refrain

This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm goin'a let it shine (3x);
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (**Refrain**)

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine (3x);
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (**Refrain**)

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine; (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! (**Refrain**)

Celebration Song

He's Got the Whole World

Refrain

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me brother in His hands,
He's got you and me sister in His hands,
He's got everybody in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands. (***Refrain***)