



The Immanuel Light *Abridged*

For the Living of These Days



Greetings, Immanuel Family,

My name is Andrew Tonks and I was recently called as the Minister to Youth at Immanuel. I am a second-year graduate student at Vanderbilt Divinity School. I look forward to soon being able to resume worship and in-person meetings at church. Throughout this pandemic, the youth and I have been able to gather on some Zoom calls and continue to have fun and study the Bible. I asked the youth this past week about their experiences during the quarantine. The questions I asked were

1. What has your experience during quarantine been?
2. What has been disappointing about this?
3. How has your faith impacted the way you go about quarantine?

The responses I got were very enlightening and helped me to see where their perspectives were and how they were doing in isolation. In response to the first question, some answered they were fine and were doing things with their families to help pass the time. They also said the most difficult thing for them was time away from friends and normal activities. Their collective answer to the second question was being away from loved ones and friends and having to come to terms with the sudden end of things such as school tests they'd been studying for, sports, and other extracurricular activities. The way they talked about their faith and the pandemic was very uplifting. They spoke of how important prayer was to them and the knowledge of an ever-loving and ever-present God being reassurance that everything will be okay. In the short time I have known these youth, I've appreciated their enthusiasm and willingness to discuss issues. I am hopeful that we will be together soon and we can worship God as a community.

Until then, keep safe and God bless,
—Andrew

Together Again...In-Person Worship to Resume Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Church leadership, including the reopening task force, staff, and others, have structured an initial plan for us to come “Together Again” as Immanuel Baptist Church in a safe manner. We will reopen for **worship service only beginning June 7, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.** We acknowledge that not all individuals and households are able to return to in-person worship at this time. In an effort to provide worship experiences for all comfort levels, **online streaming will continue through Facebook Live each Sunday.** As we join together, the service will be similar to the online version in which many of us have participated these last few months.

If you are feeling ill, please do not attend.

What To Expect

- **Masks:** Wearing masks while entering and within the church is strongly recommended for all adults and children, except children under two years of age and those whose medical conditions would prohibit their use. We ask that you do this in case anyone is unknowingly infectious and has no symptoms. Once seated if your mask is uncomfortable, you may remove it until the service is concluded then reapply.
- **Childcare:** Children are welcome, but no childcare will be provided. We encourage you to bring books or other quiet activities for your child(ren) during the approximately 45-minute service.
- **Entryways:** Please enter the building only on the ground floor through one of three entries: kitchen/Fellowship Hall door, Honeywood door, or the Belle Meade door. The rest of the building will be closed.
- **Orders of Worship:** Printed copies of the order of worship will be available for pick up at the doors to the sanctuary.
- **Hand Sanitizer:** Bottles of hand sanitizer will be available at each sanctuary door.
- **Seating:**
 - An usher will be present at each sanctuary door to provide seating directions
 - Seating will be available by households, and structured to allow six feet of separation between household groups. Seat-marker signs will be provided via mail. We encourage you and your families to decorate these signs, and bring with you to worship. You may place these signs in your chosen seating area to mark where your household will sit each week.
 - At the conclusion of worship, each household should exit through the door in which they entered and maintain physical distancing from other households while exiting the building.
 - Receptacles will be placed at each sanctuary door to discard orders of worship or you may take them home. Please assist our janitorial staff by taking with you everything you brought to the service.

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Immanuel Baptist Church

The mission of Immanuel Baptist Church is to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to deepen our love for God and others, to fully engage our neighbor, and to wholeheartedly serve those on the margins of society.

God is calling Immanuel Baptist Church to practice the radical, compassionate discipleship taught by Jesus Christ.

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Together Again. . . In Person Worship

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- **Tithes and Offerings:** We encourage you to mail your tithes and offerings to the church. If you choose to bring your gift to in-person worship, please place it in the offering plate on the altar when entering or leaving the sanctuary.

Other church activities will resume when they become feasible to do so in a safe manner.

We will continue to monitor and adjust plans as we move through the next several weeks to ensure a safe process for us to worship together.

PRAYER LIST

- Steve Tate
- Lee Ann and Kevin Craft (Lee Ann is the niece of Miriam Tate)

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Walt and Sue Conn, who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday, May 28.



June 2

Carolyn Easterly

June 3

Lyla Gnetz

June 4

Bob Belew

June 6

Donna Greek

June 7

Elizabeth Sanford
An Tran

June 12

Sue Conn

June 14

Caroline Newman

June 17

Edmond Jarnigan
Tammy Drolsum

June 21

Carolyn Campbell

June 23

Michael Nguyen

June 25

Rebecca Dean

June 28

Jennifer Ervin
Sidney Maddox
Andy Witherington

June 29

Lauren Clouse
Becky Gore
Faye Roberts