



The Word

- FORETOLD
- ANNOUNCED
- WELCOMED
- MADE FLESH
- CONFIRMED

Advent and Christmas at Immanuel

December 10, 2023

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Angel—The Word Announced

WITTE FAMILY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple;

**People: The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight.
Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Shout in triumph!**

**All: Our King is coming; the righteous Savior,
who shall speak peace to the nations.
Let us sing praises to our God and King!**

Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*

INVOCATION

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Once in Royal David's City*

HYMN 225

(Choir sings verses 1 & 2, congregation joins on verses 3, 4, 5)

** Congregation stands*

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION *(in unison)*

STEVE WESTFALL

**Lord, we humbly confess that at times we struggle:
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.
Thanks be to God.

* ACCLAMATION

**All: To him in whom God's fullness dwells,
To him through whom God reconciles all things to himself,
To him be glory and honor and praise throughout all generations forever
and ever! Amen.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

(Please share God's peace with those around you.)

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies:
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

(Children 3 years through 5th grade are dismissed to go downstairs to continue their worship.)

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE BIDDING PRAYER AND 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.**

FIRST LESSON

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-19

READER: COLIN HOLMAN

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *The Truth from Above*

English traditional carol
Arr. R. Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear.
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands He did teach.

The first thing, which I do relate,
That God at first did man create.
The next thing, which to you I tell,
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus He in love to us behaved
To show us how we must be saved,
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what He did say.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose.
For so a promise soon did run
That He'd redeem us with a Son.

SECOND LESSON

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Isaiah 40:1-8

READER: CHUCK KING

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN: *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

HYMN 197

THIRD LESSON

Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

READER: DEEPAK SANTHIRAJ

Leader: **This is the word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

Choir: *So Wonderful*

Daniel Perrin
LAUREN MATHUES

A star shown bright,
A king stepped through the sky one night.
The angel band
Escorted him from this foreign land

He came to earth and through his birth
Was wed to flesh to share with us his worth.
He saw our lives, the sin and pride,
But in his look of love was heaven's eyes.

He is so wonderful, our counselor,
Our hope of heaven, peace on earth.
Almighty God, of Ancient Days,
We give to him our endless praise.

FOURTH LESSON

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.
Micah 5:2-4

READER: MARGARET LAMBKA

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

* CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1 and 2)

HYMN 201

FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary
Luke 1:26-35, 38

READER: SARAH DIAZ

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *A Maiden Most Gentle*

French traditional melody
Arr. Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:
Of Mary the mother, of Jesus our King.
Ave, Maria.

How bless'd is the birth of her heavenly child,
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.
Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation, and Savior of all.
Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,
And marveled in awe at the babe in her care.
Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray,
Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless 'Ave.'
Ave Maria.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1, 3-7

READER: HOPE LONEY

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *O Magnum Mysterium*

Tomas Lius de Victoria

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
That animals might see the birth of the Lord
As he lay in the manger.
O Blessed Virgin,
Who wast worthy of bearing our Lord Jesus Christ,
Alleluia.

SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.
Luke 2:8-20

READER: DANIEL DIETLIN

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* CAROL: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

HYMN 203

EIGHTH LESSON

The Wise Men are led to Jesus by the star.
Matthew 2:1-11

READER: HOWARD WHITAKER

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

CHOIR: *From a Far-Off Land*

Traditional Puerto Rican
Arr. Sondra K. Tucker

From a far-off land we greet the Holy Baby,
Guided by the Eastern Star so brightly shining.

Oh, the brilliant star that tells of the new dawning,
May it always shine, and never fail to guide!

Glory in the highest to our Holy Savior;
In the highest heav'n, and on the earth, sing praise!

To the newborn King, the Lord of all the nations,
Gift of finest gold, for the building of His temples.

For God's holy Son we offer fragrant incense,
Perfume whose fragrance rises to the heaven.

To the Child of Heav'n, who for us became a mortal,
Bitter myrrh we bring, His sacrifice foretelling.

NINTH LESSON

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

READER: GEORGE GARRISON

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *'Twas in the Winter Cold*

Howard Whitaker

'Twas in the winter cold, when earth
Was desolate and wild,
That angels welcomed at His birth
The everlasting Child.
From realms of ever bright'ning day,
And from His throne above
He came with humankind to stay,
All lowliness and love.

Light of the everlasting morn,
Deep through my spirit shine;
There let Thy presence newly born
Make all my being Thine:
There try me as the silver, try,
And cleanse my soul with care,
Till Thou art able to descry
Thy faultless image there.

* CAROL: *See Amid the Winter's Snow* (Choir only on verses 3 and 4)

HYMN 199

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

Musicians

Mary Hopper, John Zimmerman, Alethea Funck, Heather Reyes,
Lauren Mathues, Eli Ouoba, Jack Durbin, Hannah Gilmore

TODAY

If you are in need of prayer, [elder Sarah Holman](#) will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service.

Thanks to our artists: The Nativity display at the front of the sanctuary is made from repurposed church bulletins. Pieces will be added each week, now through Epiphany (early January).

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry
No Youth Group**

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study (childcare)

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Food pantry open

COMING

December 17 4:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24 10:30 a.m.

Morning worship service

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

YEAR-END GIVING

We are about \$75,000 away from matching our budget for the year. Donations must be received (or be postmarked) by Sunday, December 31 in order to count toward the 2023 budget and appear on your annual giving report. If you use Bill Pay be sure to allow extra time for mailing by your bank.

ELDERS

*Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Bill France, Sarah Holman,
Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth*

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Seth Ehorn (Chair), Debby France, Ron Haydon, Dee Netzel,
Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Joel Rose, Amy Treier, Rebecca Williams*

STAFF

*George A. Garrison, Senior Pastor; Annette LaPlaca, Minister of Congregational Life;
Mary Hopper, Minister of Music; Annika Durbin, Children's Minister;
Anna and Scott Scheidt, Ministers to Youth;
Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton*

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS

Bev Burch, Leon Sinclair, Angela Wisdom, Annette LaPlaca