



Advent and Christmas at Immanuel

December 17, 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.

Enthusiastic Service, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus as we proclaim the gospel near and far in word and deed.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: *Prelude Sonata Op. 7 Andante molto*

Grieg

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Shepherds—The Word Welcomed

KERSLAKE FAMILY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The mighty God summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

People: Our God comes and will not be silent. God calls, and we respond to his love.

Leader: The heavens declare God's righteousness.

All: We tell out God's glories! Our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.

based on Psalm 50:1-3, 6 Adapted from the *Worship Sourcebook*

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYMN 196

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

DAN BALZER

Leader: Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.

**All: We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.**

Leader: We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.

All: In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.

Leader: Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;

All: With gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary;

Leader: With love, as you have loved us.

All: Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*

SONG OF CONFESSION: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Howard Whitaker

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Howard Whitaker. It is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Come, Thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free. From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in Thee." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior, Jesus Christ, came
among us in great humility, will sanctify you with the light of his
blessing and set you free from all sin.

* ACCLAMATION (*Gloria Patri*)

HYMN 735

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. Jacob B. Weber
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

DOXOLOGY

HYMN 732

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RACHEL EHORN

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? (Refrain)

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

STEVE WESTFALL

* SONGS

COME, LORD JESUS

1 Come, Lord Je - sus. Come, Lord Je - sus.
 2 Come, O Prince of Peace. Come, O Prince of Peace.
 3 Come, Im - man - u - el. Come, Im - man - u - el.

Come, Lord Je - sus;
 Come, O Prince of Peace; Come, and be born in our hearts.
 Come, Im - man - u - el;

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EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is
 called Em-man - u - el. God with us,
 re-vealed in us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

Text and music: Bob McGee (b.1944)

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 EMMANUEL

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WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.)

READER: JOY HUDSON

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 40:9-11*

⁹You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:8-20*

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Shepherds Like Us*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

HYMN 214

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Walther

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: Beth Bauer, Mary Hopper, Buursma family, Gabriel Weckesser, Chuck King

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, elder **Ron Netzel** will be available near the platform.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open
Christmas Pageant**

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 24

10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship Service

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

In Immanuel and Beyond

With three Sundays left, we are about \$45,000 away from meeting our budget for the year (\$872,100). Donations must be received (or be dated and postmarked) by Sunday, December 31 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.

If offerings exceed expenses, the surplus will help make up for use of reserve funds for the parking lot project, which cost just over \$122,000.

ELDERS

*Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Bill France, Sarah Holman,
Ron Netzel, 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