



*Advent and Christmas at Immanuel*

December 3, 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: *Panis Angelicus*  
*Lo, How a Rose*

César Franck  
Praetorius/Brahms

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Prophet—The Word Foretold

THE HALL FAMILY

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather in preparation for good news is about to be proclaimed.

**People: We gather in expectation for joy is coming to the world.**

Pastor: Let us sing praises to our God and King, let us magnify him together in this place.

**All: For God is the King over all the earth, and reigns over the nations.  
The Lord be magnified!**

### \* INVOCATION

*\* Congregation stands.*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four verses. The guitar chords are indicated above the vocal lines.

**System 1:** Chords: G, Em, C, D, G, D. Lyrics: 1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for; 2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed, comes in; 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his; 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

**System 2:** Chords: G/B, Am, G, C, G/D, D, G, Em. Lyrics: our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand; so - lemn splen - dor near; all the saints this; daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less; thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the

**System 3:** Chords: C, D, G, D, G/B, Am, G, C, G/D, D. Lyrics: saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his train:; world re - ject - ed thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:; ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; power and glo - ry, claim the king - dom for thine own:

**System 4:** Chords: D, Am, G, Am, G/B, D, Em, G/B. Lyrics: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture; O come quick - ly! O come quick - ly! O come quick - ly!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1758, P.D.

Music (HELMSLEY 8.7.8.7.4.4.4.7): attr. Augustine Arne; adapt. Thomas Olivers, 1763, P.D.

Am G Dsus D G D/F# C G/D D G

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 quick - ly! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD’S GRACE**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

**People: we trust the Lord’s goodness. We rely on God’s mercy. We find shelter in God’s steadfast love.**

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

**People: we walk in the Lord’s way. We follow God’s example of love. We keep our covenant promises.**

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting,

**People: Lord, forgive our sins. Remember your love. Remember each one of us. Remember your people everywhere.**

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting,

**People: Lord, we wait for your salvation. We wait for your leading. We wait for your coming.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ’s way of hope and peace. Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

\* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Please stand)

Franz Schubert  
(Communion book, p. 20)

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

\* APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried;  
He descended into hell,  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall 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.**

*\* universal*

\* 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: *Consolation No. 2 in E Major*

Franz Liszt  
DANIEL HORN

DIACONAL PRAYER

BECKY WILLIAMS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let Earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

*(Children return to their seats.)*

\* HYMN: *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

Refrain Am Dm9 F G A

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits;

Bb C Am7 Dm9 Fine Am

tru - ly my hope is in you.

1 O Lord of  
2 O Spring of  
3 O Root of  
4 O Key of

Dm9 Am Dm9 Am

Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry, your ra-diance  
Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its; our thirst - y  
Life, im - plant your seed with - in us, and in your  
Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age; we ev - er

Dm9 Am Dm9 Am

shines in all who look to you. Come, light the  
hearts are yearn-ing for your Word. Come, make us  
ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -  
seek, yet un - ful - filled re - main. O - pen to

Dm9 Am G C Am7 Dm9 Refrain

hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
whole; be com - fort to our hearts.—  
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
us the path - way of your peace.—

## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: JAYNE BETINA, GABY SOSA

\* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 9:2, 5-7*

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

\* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 4:12-16*

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee.

<sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned." NIV



\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION: *Foretold for Our Telling*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Please approach the tables from the center aisles, and we ask that you return to your seats on the outside aisles.*

*If you would rather not go to the front, please feel free to remain seated. Tell an usher if you would like to be served in your seat.*

*If you would like to be seated at the lower tables, just take a seat in the front row while you wait for openings at those tables.*

*Please feel free to partake of the elements as you feel led.*

*If you prefer to be served by an elder who is wearing a face mask and gloves please indicate that to the usher at the front of the sanctuary.*

*During Communion friends will be available on the stair landings at the back of the sanctuary if you would like prayer.*

(Times of singing and silence.)

(Communion music is found in the Communion song book, unless otherwise noted.)

Piano Solo: Mother and Child ( <i>from Seven Mysteries</i> ) Richard Danielpour	
God to Enfold You	p. 18
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart	p. 47
Jesus Is Our King	p. 26

**WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE**

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

HYMN 460

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

## Scots' Form of Communion

The early Scottish Presbyterians felt strongly that their manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper should clearly symbolize the truth that the Risen Christ is host to his redeemed people at this covenant meal. Samuel Rutherford wrote that "they should sit, as banqueters, at one table with our King, and eat and drink." Abraham Kuyper expressed his opinion that the Lord's Supper should be eaten from a table, saying, "Jesus spreads a feast for his friends and as a King invites his people to his table."

For several years we have used this form largely for the same reasons expressed by our Presbyterian predecessors and also have discovered reasons in our own experience to value this observance of the Sacrament. The form demands a little more from us than the tradition of being served at our places in the congregation. As we overcome our nervousness about going forward we find that the very act impresses upon us the reality of our personal response to our Lord's invitation to receive his grace. Sitting with others at his table, singing and watching others go forward impresses upon us the reality of our fellowship and the joy of seeing others meet our Lord in his love.

**Notice to Families:** In accord with our practice of the Lord's Supper, children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ to the elders are asked to refrain from partaking in the communion. We desire that such children look forward gladly to the day when they take their first communion as a significant step in their spiritual growth. In the meantime, we want to provide ways they may grow to understand the meaning of the sacrament and also feel that though young, they are significant persons in the covenant family of God. So we invite those children to come forward to the Table and be seated with their parents. The elder who serves the elements to the parents will briefly offer prayer for the child. So that the elders may know which children to pray for in this way, we suggest that the children not taking communion fold their hands on the Table. We hope this custom will encourage parents as they help their children grow in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" and prepare for the time when they are ready to profess Christ and take communion.

### TODAY

**Thanks to our musicians:** Mary Hopper, Zak Reynolds, Daniel Horn

**"Mother and Child"** is the closing movement of Seven Mysteries, a cycle for solo piano written in 2020 by the distinguished American composer Richard Danielpour for his friend Daniel Paul Horn, through a commission from Wheaton College, where it received its premiere in the fall of that year. Descended from a Persian Jewish family with roots in the biblical Exile, Danielpour sought in these seven pieces to reimagine the Nativity story through a Middle Eastern sensibility. Each piece is paired with a biblical text; "Mother and Child" reflects Luke 2:51: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart."

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

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open**

**Mothering Together**

**Youth Group (Game Night)**

## **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**

Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Mothering Together** (*childcare*)

### **Prayers during Communion**

#### ***Prayer to begin a new life in Christ***

Dear God, I recognize Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for the sins of your people. I want to recognize now that he came to earth to die for *my* sins. I confess that I am a sinner in need of your grace and the saving blood of Christ. Please forgive me of my sins through the perfect sacrifice of your Son who died in my place. Jesus, come into my heart and change me from the inside out. Help me to truly repent from my previous way of living without you, and help me to surrender to your rule over my life as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Spirit that reveals to me the new life that I have in Christ and empowers me to walk in obedience to your truth and will for me. Amen.

#### ***Prayer for those struggling with sin***

Merciful God, I am thankful that as your child I am not defined by my sin. Help me to walk in obedience to you in all areas of my life. Forgive me for the particular area(s) where I still succumb to temptation and disobey you. Help me to remember that in every area where I am tempted, your word promises that you will provide a way out of those temptations. Fill me with your Spirit, which working in me can do what I cannot do on my own. Help me to walk in obedience to your commands and also delight in them and your guiding words of truth. Please give me the courage to reach out to others in the body of Christ for strength and support when I am especially vulnerable. Amen.

#### ***Prayer for those wrestling with doubts and fears***

Gracious God, even as your child I wrestle with the fact that your will for me is perfect and that you will supply all of my needs. Help me to set my mind on the truths of your word, and guard my heart when the enemy clouds my mind and heart with fear and doubt. Help me to rest in the peace and security of being your child, and by your Spirit testify with my spirit that I am yours when feelings tell me otherwise. Remind me of your love and delight in me as your child. Amen.

#### ***Prayer for those seeking freedom from their past***

Almighty God, you have the power to set us free from the sins and entanglements of our past. Release me from the shackles of my past that I carry that you have released me from. Forgive me for holding my past against me in the ways that you do not, and enable me to grasp what it is for you to see me in the perfect righteousness of your Son, both now and forever. May your Spirit, the Spirit of liberty, liberate me from any thought or feeling that belies the fact that I am completely forgiven, or free to live the new life in Christ I have as your new creation. Amen.

*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 Ehom (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;  
Alva Steffler, Minister of Congregational Care; 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*