



THE GREAT GIFT OF GOD

December 26, 2021

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

ALETHEA FUNCK

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

All: We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,

Pastor: And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

All: Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

* INVOCATION

* OPENING HYMN: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

DAN BALZER

Leader: We desperately need Christ to renew our commitment.

All: We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

Leader: May the angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

All: We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

Leader: May God's star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

All: We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.

Leader: May the manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

All: We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and hearts to God.

Leader: May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

All: May God's Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal to our lives.

SONG OF CONFESSION (*O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 4*)

**All: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
He is Christ the Lord.

* ACCLAMATION

**All: With the angels and the multitude of the heavenly hosts we say:
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with
whom he is pleased!”**

* 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.)

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Noel*

Redman/Tomlin/Cash
RACHEL AND CHRIS GILMORE

Love incarnate, love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore

Son of God and Son of Man
There before the world began
Born to suffer, born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

Noel, Noel
Come and see what God has done
The story of amazing love!
The light of the world, given for us
Noel

* DOXOLOGY

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

LEON SINCLAIR



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King”;
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing:
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: THE ANDERSON FAMILY

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

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

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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: *John 1:9-14*

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

HYMN 207

1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE

TODAY

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

Musicians and other participants: Mary Hopper, Alethea Funck, Rachel and Chris Gilmore

The nursery is open for children age 0 - 3.

Food Pantry closed today

2:00 p.m.

Iglesia Roca Eterna

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

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

**No Women's Bible Study until January 11
Food pantry open**

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

In order to have donations credited to your 2021 giving report, please note that today is the last regular offering for 2021. Checks sent by mail must be postmarked by Friday, December 31 (if you use online banking be aware that there can be a delay of several days before the check is actually mailed and postmarked). Because of your faithful and generous giving, we are on target to meet our annual budget. That is the main goal now.

RENOVATION GIVING

You can continue to give to the Renovation fund. Any contributions given between now and early 2022 (Feb-March) will help reduce the total amount borrowed when refinancing of our loan and mortgage will be completed.

ELDERS

Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Ron Netzel, Carl Pickard, Sheroll Ritchie, Leon Sinclair, Gaby Sosa, Alva Steffler, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth

DEACONS

Phebe Balzer, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn, Debby France, Dee Netzel, Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, Heather Reyes (chair), Jack Swanson, 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; Amber Johnson, Business Manager; Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton

Immanuel is affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).