



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

— JOY —

Welcome, Visitors!

Thank you for choosing to attend Immanuel this morning. We hope that you will find a warm welcome and that you will experience the presence of our Lord here. Our congregation comes from all kinds of backgrounds, so wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.

Do you have young children with you this morning?

At Immanuel we believe God deeply loves and values children and mysteriously begins His work in them long before they may be able to articulate it. We joyfully welcome children of all ages into our worship service to join the larger body of Christ in worship, confession, giving, and fellowship. We offer a nursery for children under the age of three, a worship program designed for children in preschool through second grade, and Sunday School for ages preschool through fifth grade during the school year. Please stop by the **Children's Ministry Station** (in the Gathering Place) before the service to sign your children in and get more information on our ministries.

Let us contact you.

At the end of each row, there is a friendship folder with welcome cards and a place for you to let us know you were here. If you simply sign your name and address, we'll send you a letter with more information about Immanuel. If you include your phone number and email, we'll be glad to contact you that way too. Thank you for coming!

Note: If you need **hearing assistance**, please speak to one of our ushers or sound crew.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Bach/Zimmerman

“Virgin's Son, make here thy home . . .

*. . . from the Father forth he came and returneth to the same,
captive leading death and hell, high the song of triumph swell!”*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNA SCHEIDT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

HAYWARD FAMILY

Leader: Advent is a time to prepare.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: This morning we light the third candle. The first candle reminds us that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord. We wait for the unfolding of God's plan in accordance with God's time. The second candle reminds us that Advent is also a time to watch. During Advent, we eagerly watch for God's presence and work in our world. As we light the third candle we also remember that Advent is a time to prepare. During Advent, we prepare ourselves in heart, soul, and strength to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Let each of us ask God to prepare us to celebrate the glory of Christmas.

* *We Wait in Hope* (Congregation please stand.)

Joel Raney

**Congregation:
Refrain**

(1st Sunday) We wait in
 (2nd Sunday) We watch in
 (3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
 (4th Sunday) We praise with
 (Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,
 for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____

We wait with
 We watch with
 We pre - pare with
 We praise with
 We pro - claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;

we wait in
 we watch in
 we pre - pare in
 we praise with
 we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

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* **Leader:** God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do. Amen.

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

HYMN 225

(Choir sings vs. 1 & 2, congregation joins on verse 3, 4, 5)

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

ALVA STEFFLER

Leader: If we look at our own lives,

All: We must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness, our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush, our missing the mark of Advent.

Leader: We need forgiveness for our frantic ways and misplaced efforts. But we are grateful that we can trust in God,

All: Who still brings salvation, who still supplies us strength, who hears our songs of gratitude, who accepts our joyful praise.

Leader: Let us draw water from the wells of salvation. Let us proclaim his greatness with all our being.

All: His saving deeds support our lives. His greatness still astounds us. The Holy One of Israel is among us.

Based on Isaiah 12

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.

from The Worship Sourcebook

* ACCLAMATION

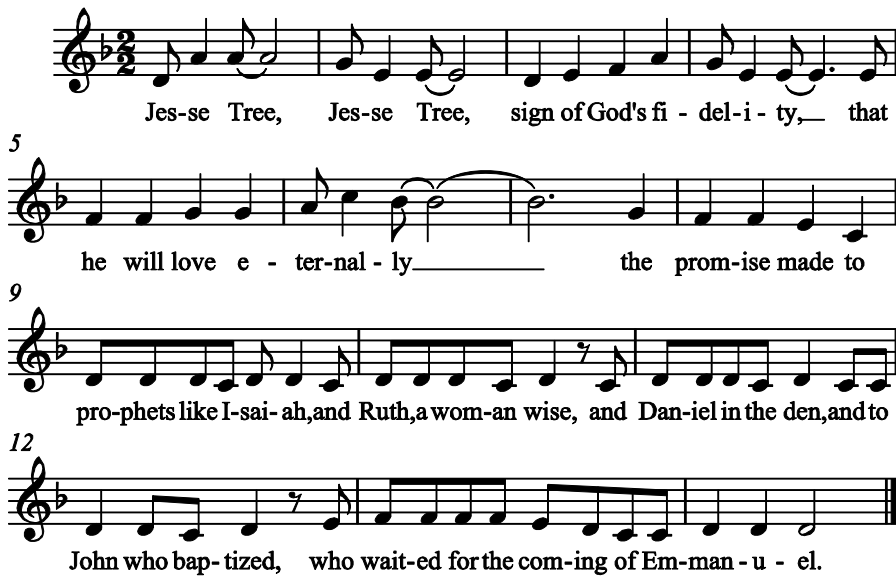
All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen.

* 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.)



Jes-se Tree, Jes-se Tree, sign of God's fi - del-i - ty, that

5 he will love e - ter-nal - ly the prom-ise made to

9 pro-phets like I-sai-ah, and Ruth, a wom-an wise, and Dan-iel in the den, and to

12 John who bap-tized, who wait-ed for the com-ing of Em-man - u - el.

(Children 3 years through 2nd 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 the 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.

ANTHEM: *The Truth from Above*

English Traditional Carol
Arr. R. Vaughan Williams
IMMANUEL CHOIR

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore do not turn me from your door,
But hearken well both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run
That He would redeem us by His Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live and here did preach.
And many thousand He did teach.

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.

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

Isaiah 40:1-8

Reader: Ron Haydon

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN: *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

HYMN 197

THIRD LESSON: The angel Gabriel appears to Mary.

Isaiah 35:1-6

Reader: Anna Gissing

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *The Desert Shall Rejoice*

Malcolm Archer
Marilyn Sands, Oboe

The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as a rose:
it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with praise and singing.
For the ears of the deaf shall hear, and the eyes of the blind shall be opened.
For the tongue of the dumb shall sing, and the lame will dance for joy.
For the ground will become a pool, and the dry land will become springs of water.
As the ransomed return to the Lord, they shall come back singing unto Zion with joy.

FOURTH LESSON: The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-4

Reader: Michael Kendrick

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Women only on first verse.)

HYMN 201

FIFTH LESSON: The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader: Luciana Balzer

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *The Angel Gabriel*

Basque carol
Arr. Richard Shephard

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name,'
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will every say:
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

SIXTH LESSON: Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Reader: Abbott Klassen

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *Still, Still, Still*

German Carol
arr. Philip Ledger

Still, still, still,
Let all the world be still,
For Mary lays her son to rest,
Sings to him softly at her breast,
Still, still, still,
Let all the world be still.

Joy, joy, joy,
My heart is filled with joy!
The God of love has left his throne,
Made this humble world his own,
Joy, joy, joy,
My heart is filled with joy!

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
My dearest baby, sleep,
The angels all rejoice and sing,
Heav'n for your delight shall ring,
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
My dearest baby, sleep.

SEVENTH LESSON: The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-20

Reader: Marie Smith

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

HYMN 214

EIGHTH LESSON: The Wise Men are led to Jesus by the star.

Matthew 2:1-11

Reader: Priscilla Witte

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

CHOIR: *Star Carol*

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

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: *Ding Dong! Merrily On High*

Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers,
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve'time song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen.
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

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

HYMN 199

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

TODAY

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

Thanks to our artists: The Advent art is the work of David LaPlaca. The panels, first hung about ten years ago, represent the branch that will come forth from the stem of Jesse, the loving and sovereign hand of God, Mary rejoicing in God her Savior, the Light of the World, the angel announcing good news, the wise men bearing gifts, and the newborn Savior in a manger. The panels are lightweight, cut out from styrofoam insulation. The creche figures are papier mache, using Immanuel bulletins from a few years ago. Immanuel children helped David by making the baby sheep. New pieces will be added each week through Christmas Eve. The figure of baby Jesus has the name *Immanuel* across his small body.

Pageant and Supper: Come back tonight to see Immanuel's children in their Christmas Nativity program. These preschoolers through eighth-graders have worked hard and creatively to prepare. We'll share in supper and fellowship in the lower level after the program. Everyone is welcome, not just families. Come even if you did not sign up in advance!

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Immanuel choir, John Zimmerman, Marilyn Sands, Rob Noll, Peter Welander, Seth Ehorn

11:10 a.m.	Sunday School and Adult Education
11:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
2:00 p.m.	Iglesia Roca Eterna
5:00 p.m.	Christmas pageant followed by dinner

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.	Food pantry open
Thursday	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

The Advent readings are from "We Wait in Hope," words and music by Joel Raney.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT IMMANUEL

Sunday, December 15	5:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Pageant and Dinner
Sunday, December 22	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship Cookie Reception after church (no Sunday school or Adult Education)
Tuesday, December 24	6:00 p.m.	Candlelight service
Friday, December 27	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Sock Hop and Fellowship
Sunday, December 29	9:30 a.m.	Sunday worship (no Sunday school or Adult Education)

Updated Prayer Focus: "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." John 1:14

As we wait and watch this Advent season, may our hearts be full of thankfulness for the greatness of God's presence among us. He has made His home with us, and fills our lives with His grace and truth--right here, right now. As we look to how our "house" will grow and change in the months ahead, may we continue to thank Him for the great gift of Immanuel, God with us, as we follow where He leads.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES **TODAY**

A Disruptive Hope: Advent through an Old Testament Lens	Andy Abernethy Ministry House
Stress Is Good for You!	Nate Thom Sanctuary
El Evangelio de la Gloria de Dios - Juan 13-21 (The Book of Glory - John 13-21)	Carlos Sosa Ministry House, upstairs

BEGINNING JANUARY 5

Christianity and American Politics: Lessons from the Past for the Present	Mark Noll
Grandparenting: Loving Our Children's Children	various Immanuel grandparents
Youth Membership Class (6th - 12th grade)	Annika Durbin

ELDERS

*Katherine Anderson (Clerk of Session), Dan Balzer, Phyllis LePeau, Lew Luttrell,
Carl Pickard, Leon Sinclair, Alva Steffler, Steve Westfall, Ken Wolgemuth*

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Judy Bryson (Chair), Tim Curley, Colin Holman, Marc Johnson, Michael Kendrick,
Jim Mann, Harv Meyers, Jeanette Myra, Heather Reyes*

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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29W260 Batavia Road

Warrenville, IL 60555

(630) 393-4400

www.immanuelpresbyterian.net

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