



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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— LOVE —

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • DECEMBER 18, 2022

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
December 18, 2022

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

PRELUDE

*Noel Medley*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

SONG: *Love's Pure Light*

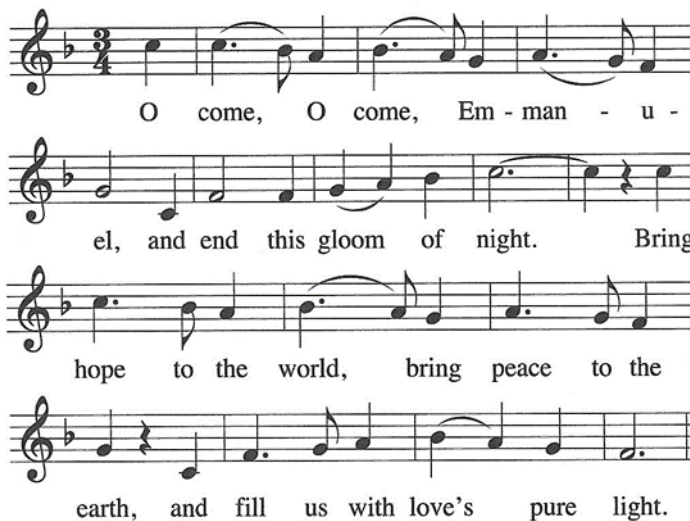
BETH BAUER  
HANDBELL CHOIR

MARY HOPPER

MAYELL FAMILY

*"Gesù Bambino"*  
Music: Pietro Yon

Words and Arranged by  
JOEL RANEY



O come, O come, Em - man - u -  
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring  
hope to the world, bring peace to the  
earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

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CANDLE LIGHTING

SONG: *Love's Pure Light*

\* INVOCATION

\* OPENING HYMN: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on  
 3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy  
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law  
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,  
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

REFRAIN

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.  
 Latin hymn, 1710  
 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.  
 Plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

## WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

STEVE WESTFALL

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*

### 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 (*in unison*)

**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.

**All: And also with you.**

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

# WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *Carol of the Bells*

HANDBELL CHOIR

## 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.**

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR MIKHAEL SAUL

BAROCHA

Michael Card

The Lord bless you and keep you. The  
The Lord be gra - cious to you. The  
3 We wel - come you to Im - man - u - el. We  
Lord make His face shine up - on you, and give you peace,  
Lord turn His face to - ward you, and give you peace,  
6 pledge to raise you; may you know well God's per - fect peace,  
and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er.  
and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er.  
God's per - fect peace, God's per - fect peace for - ev - er.

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 Mar - y, and Jo-seph in a dream, was Je-sus, Son of God, who

12 came here to re-deem all who wait-ed for the com-ing of Em-man-u - el.

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

\* HYMN: *Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor*

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -  
 2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -  
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we

cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,  
 cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,  
 wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -  
 heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -  
 make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -

yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.  
 yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.  
 yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

Frank Houghton, 1894-1972

QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE 9.8.9.8.9.8.  
 French carol melody  
 Arr. by Charles H. Kitson, 1930

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## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READER: NETZEL FAMILY

### \* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 107:1-9*

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
<sup>3</sup> those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.
- <sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.  
<sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away.
- <sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.
- <sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.
- <sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,  
<sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.

### \* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

*Luke 1:39-56*

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"



<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:  
“My soul glorifies the Lord  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”  
<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

*1 John 3:1-2*

<sup>1</sup> See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. NIV

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Love Personified*

# WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Joy to the World*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

## TODAY

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, elder Katherine Anderson will be available to pray with you near the platform.

Thanks to our musicians: Beth Bauer, John Zimmerman, Mary Hopper, Buursma family, Handbell Choir.

If you are strong and able, please stay after the worship service to help bring tables up from the lower level for tonight's **All-Church Supper and Pageant**. If you didn't sign up and still would like to come, please come! The Social Team planned for late joiners. Supper begins at 5 p.m., in the sanctuary.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.      **Food Pantry open**

5:00 p.m.              **All-Church Dinner/Do-It-Yourself Pageant**

## Coming

December 21      11-1, 2-4, 6-8      **Sanctuary open for prayer**

December 24      6:00 p.m.      **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
with music and cider in the narthex  
beginning at 5:30**

December 25      10:30 a.m.      **Christmas Day worship**

## In Immanuel and Beyond

**Year-End Giving:** 'Tis the season for fund raising appeals. The good news is that year-to-date giving for Immanuel is ahead of our projections. That leaves just over \$72,000 in December to meet our budget goal of \$808,600. To count toward the current budget and your own 2022 tax records, remember that the last offering will be Christmas Day. Any donations brought to the church office must be received by Friday, December 30. Donations sent by mail must be postmarked by December 31. (If you bank online be aware that there is often a delay before the bank mails your check).

*ELDERS*

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

*DEACONS*

*Phebe Balzer, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehom (Chair), Debby France, Dee Netzel,  
Tom Nguyen, Katie Pickard, 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;  
Barbara Lawrence, Church Secretary; Frank Lawrence, Church Sexton*