



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

— LOVE —

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ DECEMBER 22, 2019

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.

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

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

AMBER JOHNSON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LONEY FAMILY

Leader: Advent is a time to praise.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: During Advent we remember God's future promises.

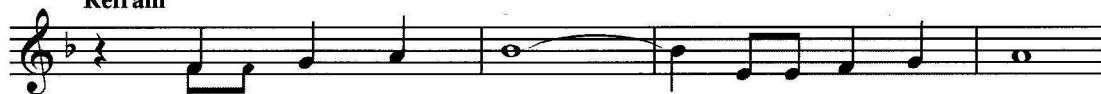
All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Leader: This morning we light the fourth candle. The first candle reminds us that during Advent we wait upon the promises of the Lord. The second candle reminds us to watch for God's presence with expectant eyes and hearts. The third candle reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the promised Savior. As we light the fourth candle, we are reminded that Advent is a time to give praise for what God has done, for what God is currently doing, and for what God will bring to completion. As the light of Advent grows brighter, it reminds us that we move closer to receiving the gift of a Savior.

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

Joel Raney

**Congregation:
Refrain**



(1st Sunday)	We	wait	in	} hope_____ for the morn - ing	Light,
(2nd Sunday)	We	watch	in		
(3rd Sunday)	We	pre - pare	in		
(4th Sunday)	We	praise	with		
(Christmas Eve)	We	pro - claim	with		



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate_____ the night._____



We	wait	with	} joy_____ for the Sav - ior's	birth;
We	watch	with		
We	pre - pare	with		
We	praise	with		
We	pro - claim	with		



we	wait	in	} hope	for	peace	on	earth.
we	watch	in					
we	pre - pare	in					
we	praise	with					
we	pro - claim	with					

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* Leader: God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen.

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

HYMN 194

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

KATHERINE ANDERSON

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

**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: *Antiphonal Praise*

Michael Bedford
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.

JESSE TREE

Dennis J. Newman

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 2nd grade are dismissed to go downstairs to continue their worship.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

LEW LUTTRELL

* HYMN: *Thou Who Wast Rich*

HYMN 230

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READER: JOY HUDSON

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 80:1-7*

- ¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
- ³ Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
- ⁴ How long, Lord God Almighty,
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
- ⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.
- ⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 1:26-45*

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

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

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Anticipation Personified*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Joy to the World*

HYMN 195

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

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

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Beth Bauer, Karin Buursma, Seth Ehorn, Peter Welander, Rob Noll.

Bell choir: David, Anne, & Peter Osielski, John Burch, Ken Wolgemuth, Marge Reneker, Jackson, Eric, Ellie, & Samantha Durbin, Karin & Miriam Buursma.

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, 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.

If you are able, stay after church this morning and enjoy a **cookie reception** during the education hour. No adult education or Sunday school classes today.

1:00 - 3:30 p.m..

2:00 p.m.

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry

Iglesia Roca Eterna

Youth Group Christmas party

(dinner included) White elephant gift exchange.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

Food pantry closed.

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service

(Come a little earlier for harp music and hot cider.)

Thursday

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open

Friday

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Sock Hop and fellowship,
games, refreshments**

From the Finance Committee – In November, we gave \$60,726, which was 141% of the \$43,000 giving target for the church's operating expenses. For the first eleven months of the year, the giving target was \$611,000 and we gave \$612,367 or just over 100% of the target.

Based on traditional year-end giving, the December giving target is \$140,000, which is about 18% of the budgeted giving for the entire year. As usual, year-end giving will be key to supporting the 2019 budget of \$751,000 and to making decisions about the 2020 budget.

If you want to make a year-end gift of stocks, bonds, or investments, please contact the Business Manager, Amber Johnson, at amber@immanuelpresbyterian.net. In addition, if you are a year-end giver, please note that December 29 will be the last Sunday of 2019 to put your gift in the offering plate. Otherwise, your gift must be postmarked December 31 or earlier to qualify as 2019 giving.

Updated Renovation 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
BEGINNING JANUARY 5**

Christianity and American Politics: Lessons from the Past for the Present Mark Noll
meets in the Sanctuary

Grandparenting: Loving Our Children's Children Phyllis and Andy Le Peau
and other Immanuel grandparents
meets in Pastor's office

Youth Membership Class (6th - 12th grade) Annika Durbin
meeting in the Ministry House

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).