



THE GREAT GIFT OF GOD

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ DECEMBER 27, 2020

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: *I Wonder as I Wander*
Away in a Manger (Cradle Song)

arr. by Rouse
arr. by Sanborn

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

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 have we 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

** Congregation stands*

* OPENING HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1,2, and 4)

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther.

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

ALVA STEFFLER

Leader: Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself,

All: but we often find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.

Leader: Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we often treat your gift of love.

All: Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

from The Worship Sourcebook

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

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: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Galatians 4:4-5

* ACCLAMATION (*Please stand*)

All: All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, light in darkness and hope of the world, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels let us praise your name—and acknowledge your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Bleak Midwinter's Silent Night*

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

SAMANTHA DURBIN, ELLIE DURBIN, HOWARD WHITAKER

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long, long ago.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

KATHERINE ANDERSON

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: HOWARD WHITAKER, ANNIKA WHITAKER DURBIN

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:1-20*

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *The Shepherd in All of Us*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING SONG: *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 Righ - teous - 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."

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *He Is Born!*

arr. by Carter

Today

If you are in need of prayer, elder Katherine Anderson will be glad to pray with you (katand@sbcglobal.net or 630-292-4376).

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Alethea Funck, Annika, Samantha. Ellie Durbin, and Howard Whitaker.

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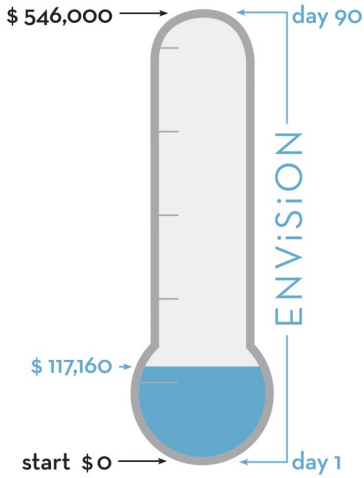
Thanks to our Livestream video crew: Peter Welander, Marc Johnson.

This Week

Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Food Pantry open**

COMING

Advent Calendar Food Drop Off: If you have been participating in the Reverse Advent Calendar food collection, you may drop off your donations at the Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 29th, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or at the church Tuesday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. If you have children, try to come on 12/29 and bring the family. There will be a little thank you for the kids.



+\$345,000
 (generous donations given previously)
= \$891,000
 (combined total needed to renovate both buildings)

Envision update

“We are entering the last phase of the renovation campaign. You are an important part of building the future of our church, physically and spiritually. God has been so generous to us, and seeing how generous you are in return is amazing. We continue to trust God to provide through you, even in unexpected ways. Remember to write “renovation” in the memo line of your gift. Only 37 days left!”

NOTES

NOTES

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

*Phebe Balzer, Tim Curley, Becky Eggimann, Seth Ehorn, Debby France,
Marc Johnson, Michael Kendrick, Harv Meyers, Tom Nguyen, Heather Reyes (chair), Jack Swanson*

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*