



THE LORD IS COME!

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THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ DECEMBER 29, 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: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

*Matthews/Shackley*

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 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

\* OPENING HYMN: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

HYMN 218

## WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

ANDY LE PEAU

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)*

**All: O holy Child of Bethlehem.  
Descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in.  
Be born to 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

**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.**

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

**WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *A New Christmas Morning, Hallelujah*

Robert MacGimsey  
SARAH HOLMAN

This is my Jesus birthday morning, Hallelujah.  
Thank God I'm spared to see it, Hallelujah.  
Lay Your presence down before him, Hallelujah.  
Listen to the angels sing his praises, Hallelujah.  
Bow my head and shout for joy, Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

\* 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. Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

ALVA STEFFLER

\* HYMN: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

HYMN 229

## WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: BILL AND DEBBY FRANCE

### \* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Deuteronomy 4:5-8*

<sup>5</sup> See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>6</sup> Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." <sup>7</sup> What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? <sup>8</sup> And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? NIV

### \* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. NIV

### \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Ephesians 1:1-2, 4-6, 17-19a*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. NIV

*Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-6*

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. NIV

*Ephesians 3:6, 14-19*

<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

*Ephesians 6:10-11*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. NIV

## WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

\* CLOSING HYMN: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

HYMN 224

SENDING PRAYER FOR THE ABERNETHY FAMILY

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

### TODAY

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

**Thanks to our musicians:** Alethea Funck, Sarah Holman

Thanks to Jim Wilhoit, who is filling in for Pastor Garrison today. Jim, who is ordained in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, has been attending Immanuel with his wife, Carol, for more than ten years. He recently retired from Wheaton College, where he taught for thirty-eight years.

**No children's worship classes.  
No children's Sunday school.  
No adult ed or Sunday School today.**

**Food Pantry closed today.**

2:00 p.m.

**Iglesia Roca Eterna**

**No youth group tonight.**

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday

**Food pantry closed**

Thursday 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Food Pantry open**



## IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

**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](mailto: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.

**Looking ahead to Epiphany, next Sunday:** On January 5, we'll be thinking of the Wise Men and the gifts they brought to honor the Savior. To share in the gift-giving, you may bring a gift to help stock the apartments of newly arrived refugees settled locally by World Relief. Suggested items are *twin- and full-sized blankets and sheets, bath towels, silverware, cookware, cutting boards, kitchen utensils, shower curtains and curtain rings, disinfecting wipes, first aid kits, and "forever" stamps.*

**Register for Snow Camp: Reserve a spot for Snow Camp at HoneyRock:** It's tradition! Folks from Immanuel travel north to HoneyRock camp on Martin Luther King weekend for north-woods fun and cozy fellowship. The cost of \$160 for adults and \$80 for children under 13 covers Friday evening, Jan. 17, through Sunday morning, Jan. 20. All are welcome! You will make lasting memories and friendships. For more info, contact John Burch ([burch.jr@att.net](mailto:burch.jr@att.net)).

## SESSION 3 • January 5—February 16

### **Christianity and American Politics: Lessons from the Past for the Present**

Mark Noll  
meets in the Sanctuary

This class is a non-partisan examination of crucial times in American history when political and Christian commitments were intermingled. It tries to show how better understanding of far-away events like the French & Indian War, the Election of 1800, and the American Civil War might help believers keep our political balance today.

*Although Mark Noll was a history professor for almost thirty years at Wheaton College and for a decade at the University of Notre Dame, he considers adult ed classes at Immanuel his most challenging and most rewarding experiences as a teacher. Mark and his wife, Maggie, are long-time members..*

### **Grandparenting: Loving Our Children's Children**

Phyllis and Andy Le Peau  
and other Immanuel grandparents  
meets in Pastor's office

Grandparents have a special role in the lives of children. Together we'll explore how we can bless our grandchildren in a variety of ways and meet some of the challenges. Each session will focus on what we can learn from the Scripture and from each other's stories. We will consider topics like prayer, favoritism, forgiveness, nurturing contentment, loving the parents of our grandchildren, learning to let the next generation lead, and more.

*Andy and Phyllis Le Peau have attended Immanuel since its inception and served in a variety of roles, most recently for Phyllis as elder and for Andy as a K-2 Sunday school teacher. They have thirteen world-class grandchildren and are the authors of several books and Bible study guides including the LifeGuide Bible Study Grandparenting, which will be the basis for the class.*

### **Youth Membership Class (6th - 12th grade)**

George Garrison and IPC elders  
meets in the Ministry House

IPC youth will learn about the essential doctrines our faith, what it means to be a part of a church community, and how to share your testimony of faith. At the conclusion of the class, youth will have the option of pursuing IPC membership (but this is not required). We ask at least one parent to attend this important class with their child. *(If not attending this class, Middle School students should attend the High School SS class for this 6-week session.)*

## NOTES

*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**

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