

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

— PEACE —

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ DECEMBER 8, 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: *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

Hopson

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

GILMORE FAMILY

Leader: Advent is a time to watch.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

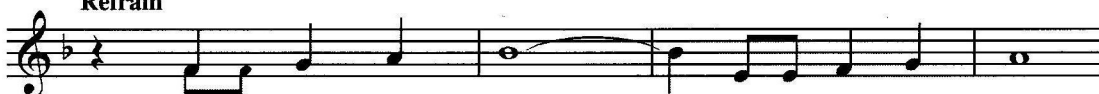
All: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: This morning we light a second candle. The first candle reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in anticipation for God to fulfill every promise set forth in the Bible. The second candle reminds us that Advent is also a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present, and constantly at work, leading all of creation toward the plan of redemption. As we light the second candle, we ask for faith to watch for God's presence and open eyes to see all that God is doing.

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

**Congregation:
Refrain**

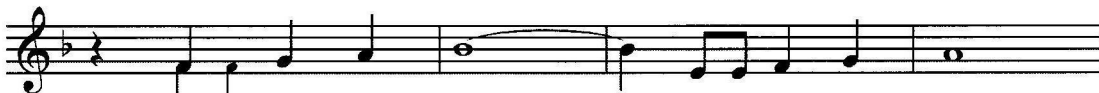
Joel Raney



(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, as we learn to wait in faith, help us now to watch in expectation. Open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us, and through us. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYMN 196

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION (*in unison*)

DAN BALZER

**Lord, we humbly confess that at times we struggle:
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find your will for us.
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.
Thanks be to God.

* ACCLAMATION

All: To him who loves us, who leads and feeds us, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, to him be glory and honor and praise throughout all generations. 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: *The Truth From Above*

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.

* 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 Mo - ses and Da-vid who'd be king, and Sol-o-mon, his son, and
12 Jo-nah in the whale, 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.)

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

HYMN 193

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

READERS: JIM AND CAROL WILHOIT

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Exodus 3:7-15*

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever,

the name you shall call me

from generation to generation. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 1:46-55*

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

⁴⁶“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.” NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Anticipation for a Nation*

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

HYMN 198

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Walther

TODAY

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

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Immanuel choir, Rob Noll, Peter Welander, Marcus Mayell, 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 - 7:00 p.m.	College Fellowship at Bretsens', 502 W. Indiana St., Wheaton, IL RSVP to Cindy at 630-386-1534
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Youth Group

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study (<i>childcare</i>)
	11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.	Food pantry open
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
		Men's Book Study (<i>Pastor's office</i>)
Thursday	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
Saturday	10:00 – noon	Choir Workshop
	1:00- 2:30 p.m.	Children's pageant rehearsal

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

Thanks to everyone who volunteers and contributes donations for the Immanuel Food Pantry. Your time and contributions are appreciated by the many guests who visit the Pantry each week.

Prayer Focus: The prayer team for the Renovation process has been meeting to talk and pray about what God is leading Immanuel to do and how we can attend more closely to what he is doing in our midst. One thing we've been praying for is that our renewed building would better allow us to open our doors to our community--those already within our church family and those yet to come. This month as we practice thankfulness for his rich blessings on our church, may we also move into the Advent time of waiting and watching with an increased sense of expectancy: God has been faithful in the past, he will continue to be so. He is already at work, building a place and a people who will receive him and welcome many in his name. As we consider making our church home more welcoming and usable, may we also ponder how he is at work in us as his people, those with whom he came to dwell.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT IMMANUEL

Sunday, December 15	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols 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)

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES
SESSION 2
(Nov. 3—Dec. 15)

A Disruptive Hope: Advent through an Old Testament Lens

Andy Abernethy
Ministry House

The Christmas season in America works against the very concept of Advent in the church calendar. The “most wonderful time of the year” hypnotizes us into thinking that life doesn’t get any better than this. We become blind to the darkness or simply accept it as is, and we cease yearning for the Light to come again. In this class, we will allow passages from the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, to quicken our hearts to celebrate the joy and disruption of God with us.

Andy Abernethy is an Associate Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College. He and his wife, Katie, have been members of Immanuel for 5 years. They have three little ones: Anna (7), Bethany (5), and Oliver (1).

Stress Is Good for You!

Nate Thom
Sanctuary

In this series we'll gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between brain and soul, how the brain functions, what stress is, how stress affects the brain and body, and how to prevent the negative effects of stress on brain and body.

Nate Thom is an Associate Professor of Biology at Wheaton College. Dr. Thom studies ways to promote an adaptive response to stress. He began this work in graduate school at the University of Georgia by evaluating the effects of exercise on brain function and behavioral outcomes, extended this research to cognitive training programs like mindfulness during his post-doc with the Navy, and is now applying this research to missionaries at Wheaton College. Dr. Thom lives in Wheaton with his wife, Sarah, and four young boys and enjoys spending as much time outdoors as he possibly can.

El Evangelio de la Gloria de Dios - Juan 13-21
(The Book of Glory - John 13-21)

Carlos Sosa
Ministry House, upstairs

This is an introduction to the Gospel of John in Spanish. Those who have even a basic knowledge of the language are very welcome to join us. We will read together John 13-21, paying attention to the main characters and theological themes. We will also discuss some implications of the message of the Gospel to contemporary life.

Carlos Sosa was born and raised in Guatemala, Central America, and currently teaches New Testament at Wheaton College. He and his wife, Gaby, are members of Immanuel, attending along with sons Scott and Daniel.

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*

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