

Surprising Encounters



Immanuel Advent Sermon Series

November 28, 2021

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: *Of the Father's Love Begotten
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. by Rodruguez
arr. by Hayes

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

WITTE FAMILY

Reader: Advent is a time to wait.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Reader: During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Reader: During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Reader: During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Reader: During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

* SONG: *We Wait in Hope*

Joel Raney

Congregation:
Refrain



(1st Sunday) We wait in
 (2nd Sunday) We watch in
 (3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
 (4th Sunday) We praise with
 (Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



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



We wait with
 We watch with
 We pre - pare with
 We praise with
 We pro - claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we wait in
 we watch in
 we pre - pare in
 we praise with
 we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

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* INVOCATION

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth;
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

RON NETZEL

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

People: we trust the Lord's goodness. We rely on God's mercy. We find shelter in God's steadfast love.

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

People: we walk in the Lord's way. We follow God's example of love. We keep our covenant promises.

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting,

People: Lord, forgive our sins. Remember your love. Remember each one of us. Remember your people everywhere.

Leader: In this Advent season of waiting,

People: Lord, we wait for your salvation. We wait for your leading. We wait for your coming.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Be comforted and hear the good tidings of the Gospel: If any one has sinned, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Believe the Gospel and live in peace. Amen.

* ACCLAMATION

All: With angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name; evermore praising you and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory, now and always. 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: *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

IMMANUEL CHOIR

He comes to us as one unknown,
A breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone,
Or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart,
Half-seen upon the inward eye,
A falling star across the sky
Of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,
The ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze,
A wind that stirs the tops of trees,
A voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came
By flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame
A life, a death, a saving name,
For every child of earth.

He come in truth when faith is grown,
Believed, obeyed, adored;
The Christ in all the Scriptures shown,
As yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior and our Lord.

DOXOLOGY

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghose. Amen.**

JESSE TREE

Dennis Newman

5
9
12

Jes-se Tree, Jes-se Tree, sign of God's fi - del-i - ty, that
he will love e - ter-nal - ly the prom-ise made to
No - ah, and Ab ra-ham and I - saac, and Ja - cob on a jour-ney, and
Jo-seph and the tribes, who wait-ed for the com-ing of Em - man - u - el.

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

ALVA STEFFLER

* SONG: *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

Refrain Am Dm9 F G A

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits;

Bb C Am7 Dm9 *Fine* Am

tru - ly my hope is in you.

- 1 O Lord of
- 2 O Spring of
- 3 O Root of
- 4 O Key of

Dm9 Am Dm9 Am

Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry, your ra-diance
 Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its; our thirst - y
 Life, im - plant your seed with - in us, and in your
 Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age; we ev - er

Dm9 Am Dm9 Am

shines in all who look to you. Come, light the
 hearts are yearn-ing for your Word. Come, make us
 ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -
 seek, yet un - ful - filled re - main. O - pen to

Dm9 Am G C Am7 Dm9 *Refrain*

hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.
 whole; be com - fort to our hearts.—
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
 us the path - way of your peace.—

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

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

Reader: Larry Funck

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 25:1-10* (Read responsively.)

Reader: ¹ In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.

**All: ² I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.**

Reader: ⁴ Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

**All: ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.**

Reader: ⁶ Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

**All: ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.**

Reader: ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

**All: ¹⁰ All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.**

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 1:5-26* (Be seated for a dramatic reading.)

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹ The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

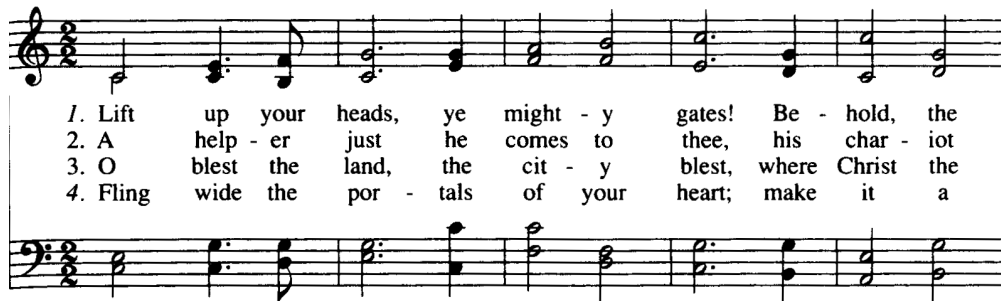
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *More Than We Asked For*

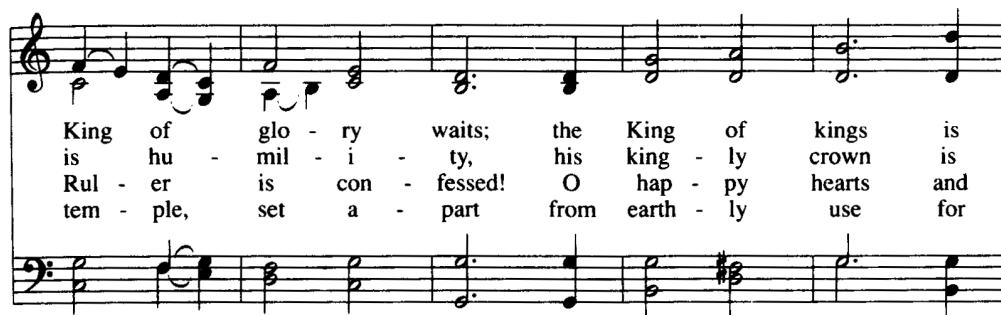
WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Lift Up Your Heads*

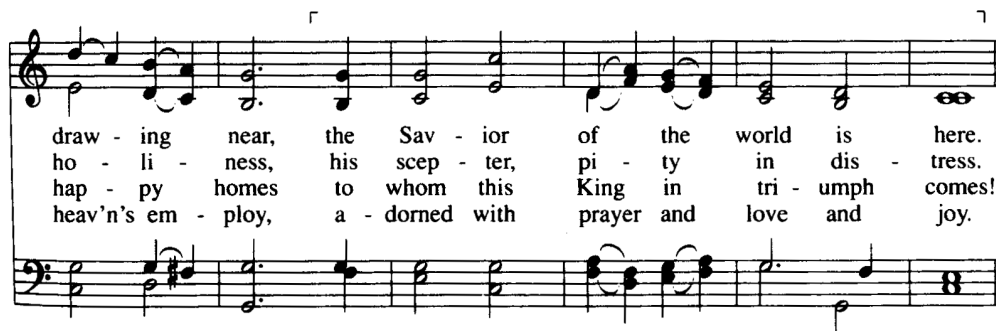
HYMN 198



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
is hu - mil - i - ty; his king - ly crown is
Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

TODAY

If you have concerns or are **in need of prayer**, elder Ron Netzel is available at the front following the service.

Thanks to our musicians: Alethea Funck, Russ Adkins, Joyce Economides, Thomas Smoak, the Immanuel choir.

	2:00 p.m.	Food Pantry closed today
		Iglesia Roca Eterna
		NO Youth Group
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Ed with Mark Noll (Zoom)
THIS WEEK		
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Book Study
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Mom Talk (childcare)
Thursday	5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

Next Sunday, December 5, we will celebrate communion with a slightly modified version of the Scot's Form.

Lessons and Carols: Sunday morning, December 12.

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*