

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2022 – 7:00 pm Candlelight

The Old Story ...The Child, the Mother, the Shepherds, the Stars, the Angels...Once more shall I remember them as remembering of a forgotten thing or a song whose words have become faint. The hills which stood ready in silent obedience from the moment of their creation. The manger which was to become the haunt of the world's devotion. The cry of the Child, the beginning of the last plea for a guilty race. This is the story. (O.P. Kretzman)

Prelude: "Silent Night" *Hand Bells*

Welcome: Pastor Dan and Pastor Miguel

Opening Hymn #379 "O Come All Ye Faithful" *Verses 1 & 2*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come, ye, O come, ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,
O come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Call to Worship *(please rise)*

P: Glory to the newborn King, the Word made flesh to dwell among us; glory to the Father, sender of the Word; glory to the Spirit, among us in our hearts.

C: **We rejoice in that glory.**

P: We lift our hearts, our voices, and our souls; all in praise of our Savior as we celebrate his birth.

C: **We rejoice in that glory.** *(Please be seated)*

Hymn: "Joy to the world" *Verses 1 & 2*

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Jesus our Immanuel, You dwell with us, but how can we abide Your dwelling?

All: For we are sinful people, unworthy of Your presence, unready for Your coming, undeserving of Your mercy.

Pastor: We are all guilty of sin by our thoughts words, and actions and deserve only death and misery.

All: Tonight Lord, we seek forgiveness of Your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. In humble repentance we ask You to dwell among us with Your grace, love and forgiveness.

Pastor: Dear friends, God indeed shows His love for us that while we were yet sinners. Christ was born in Bethlehem. Christ lived under the Law and went under judgement for us. Christ died for you and for me and so in the name of Jesus; whose birth we celebrate tonight, I say to you, "You are forgiven!"

Special Music: "Sleep Little Holy Child" *Choir*

The Christmas Gospel Part One: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration when^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P: In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the Prophets.

C: But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

HYMN: - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *Verse 1 & 3*

O little town of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently

The wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts

The blessings of His heav'n

No ear may hear His coming;

But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him,

Still The dear Christ enters in.

The Christmas Gospel Part Two: Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Verses 1 & 2

Hark! The herald angels sing,

"Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim, "

"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,

Christ the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold Him come,

Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,

Hail the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Immanuel!

The Christmas Gospel Part Three: Luke 2:15-20 (Please rise)

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn: "Mary Did You Know" Solo- Kent Fuqua

Homily: Pastor Dan

A Statement of Our Faith

All: WE BELIEVE in God the Father almighty, for He made the heavens and the earth and created all that we have and all that we are.
WE BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, sent from Him to be our Savior. By His death and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sins and will have eternal life when He returns to take all believers home to heaven.
WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work in the church today. By Him we can say, "Abba Father", for He calls us to be God's children.
WE BELIEVE in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ONE Lord for our lives and the power for living today and for all our days onto eternity.

Our Christmas Gifts and Offerings

Special Music: "O Holy Night" *Solo-Ethan Wilcox*

A Christ Prayer & Lord's Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Here at Immanuel we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ is truly present. In the bread and the wine Christ gives us His very body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. If you are a baptized, repentant Christian and affirms Christ's Real Presence in this Sacrament, we welcome you to commune with us. If you are not communing you may come up to receive a blessing instead by crossing your arms.

Pastor: Jesus walked among us in our world of conflict, as a man on our earth. He commanded us to remember Him and to wait until He comes again in glory.

Sing:

"We'll give Him all the glory.
We'll given Him all the glory.
We'll given Him all the glory, Christ the Lord"

Pastor: The Consecration of the Bread and the Wine

SING:

"O Come let us adore Him.
O Come let us adore Him.
O Come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord"

Welcome to the table of the Lord (Distribution is Continuous Style—after receiving the bread and wine, dismiss yourself and return to your seat; the post communion blessings will be given to all at the end.)

Special Music: “Breath of Heaven” Solo – Katie Wilcox

Pastor: Post Communion Blessing

The Candle Lighting Ceremony

As individual candles are lit, be careful not to tip a lighted candle, lest hot wax spill over. Tip only unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit.

Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night” Verses 1 & 2

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,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the people.

Pastor: But the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.

All: Nations will come to the Light and kings to the brightness of the dawn. Amen.

“Silent Night, Holy Night” Verse 3

Silent Night, Holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The candles are extinguished

Pastor: Go in peace and share the Good News-the mystery of the life from a baby, the baby Jesus our Savior and King! Merry Christ to all! Let us go in peace and

All: Serve the Lord!

CLOSING HYMN – “Joy to the World” Verses 3 & 4

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessing flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world! With truth and grace;
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love

Please join us tomorrow morning at 10:15am for our Christmas Day Service.

Holiday Service Schedule

Christmas Day

10:15am service —Communion
11:30am Santo Servico
No Bible Study or Sunday School

Sunday – January 1st

10:15am service--Communion
11:30am Santo Servico
No Bible Study or Sunday School

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

O Almighty God, you have made this night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, your only Son. Give us great joy in the angels' message of peace on earth and lead each of us to receive Jesus as God-with-us, our Emmanuel. This we ask for his love's sake. Amen