

**December 20, 2020**

**Church:** 812-522-3118

*Dial-A-Meditation:* 812-522-1345

[info@immanuelseymour.com](mailto:info@immanuelseymour.com)

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**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Ralph Blomenberg

Rev. Philip E. Bloch

Rev. James A. Rodriguez, Jr.

**Vicar:** Sem. William Fredstrom

**Ministry Leaders:**

**Music:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

**Youth:** Mr. Matt Nieman

**Children:** Mrs. Patti Miller

**School:** 812-522-1301

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**Faculty:**

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Mrs. Heather Dyer

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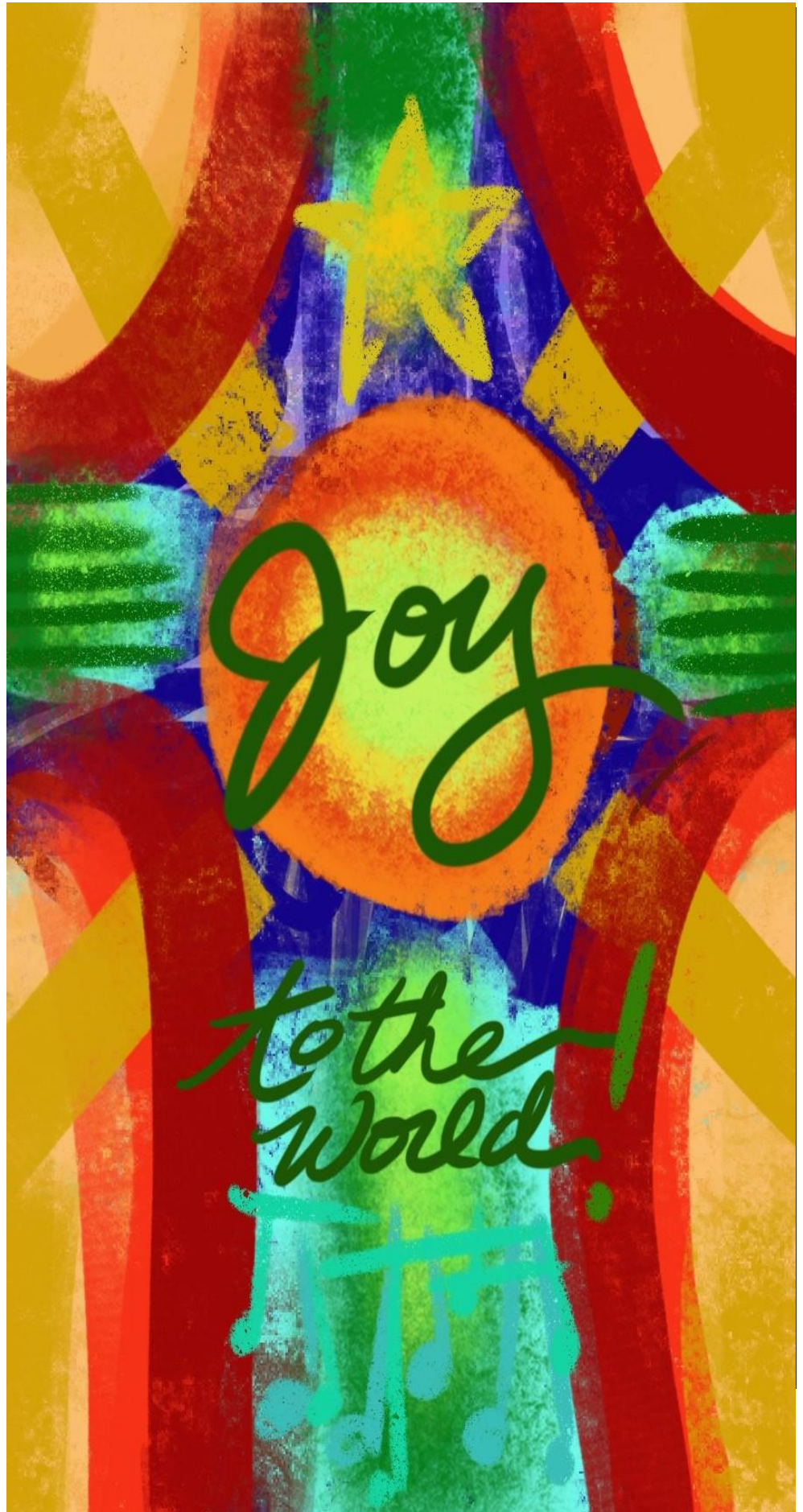
Mr. Charles Smith

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Mrs. Kelley Whitson



## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 2020

**Welcome to Worship!** In a matter of days, we will gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus. While we may yet have tasks to complete before then, God's Word today shows the massive plan that God brought to fulfillment in the birth of Christ. God is still at work in surprising ways to accomplish His saving purpose!

A Nursery is available below the entrance on Walnut St. and a Comfort Room is in the Atrium. The Nursery is not staffed at this time.

All Sunday School classes, Adult Bible Classes and Adult Information Class are suspended at this time.

Cell Phones: Please remember to silence cell phones and electronics during worship.

Hearing devices are available from an usher.

**+ 9:00 A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS +**

### THE PRESERVICE MUSIC:

Handbell Medley - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" & Angels We Have Heard on High"

### THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

### THE OPENING HYMN: "Once, in Royal David's City"

Hymn 376

*(Vocalists: Kelly Beavers & Brinley Schepman)*

- 1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

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### THE BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, be it this Adventide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the account of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Sanctuary, dedicated to the Triune God glad with our hymns of praise: But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church Christ came to build, and especially for those in special need of God's grace and care including (*specific prayers are included*): And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His Name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice

with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself has taught us:

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: The Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**All: Amen.**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: "Once He Came in Blessing" - Hymn 333 Verse 4**

4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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**THE HOMILY**

**THE INVITATORY CAROL: "When Will Messiah Come" -Joseph Martin (Soloist: Harold Mathews)**

**THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15,17-19** *God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"**

**Hymn 562**

- 1 All mankind fell in Adam's fall; One common sin infects us all.  
From one to all the curse descends, And over all God's wrath impends.
- 2 Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps And us in dreadful bondage keeps;  
In guilt we draw our infant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.
- 3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone, Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;  
God's image lost, the darkened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'nly goal.
- 4 But Christ, the second Adam, came To bear our sin and woe and shame,  
To be our life, our light, our way, Our only hope, our only stay.

5 As by one man all mankind fell And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
So by one Man, who took our place, We all were justified by grace.

6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours, New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.  
This grace our ev'ry way attend Until we reach our journey's end.

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**THE SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18** *God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE ANTHEM: "A Promise Fulfilled"** (*Soloist: Heather Dyer*)

**THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7** *The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

**Hymn 338**

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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**THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9** *The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

**Hymn 359**

*(Soloist: Heather Dyer)*

- 1     *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.*

*(Soloist: Harold Matthews)*

- 2     *Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.*
- 3     This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev'ry load.
- 4     O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day.

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**THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38** *The Annunciation of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.     **L:** This is the Word of the Lord.     **C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"**

**Hymn 356**

*(Soloist: Tami Keilman)*

- 1     *The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!*
- 2     "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3     Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4     Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

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**THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7** *St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And 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, to be registered with Mary, his

betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And 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. L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "Silent Night"**

**Hymn 363**

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 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 SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16** *The shepherds go to the manger.*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE ANTHEM: "Lullaby of the Shepherds"** (Soloist: Tami Keilman)

**THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12** *The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judaea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "As With Gladness, Men of Old"**

**Hymn 397**

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

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**THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14** *St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**Hymn 379**

- 1 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: *Refrain*

*ref* O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

- 2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

**THE COLLECT AND BLESSING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with thy spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only Son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our judge; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, (+) the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**Hymn 380**

1 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!"

*ref Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

2 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\_incarinate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

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**THE POST-SERVICE MUSIC: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**Preacher:** Pastor Blumenberg **Liturgists:** Vicar Fredstrom and Pastor Rodriguez

**Lector:** Pastor Bloch **Organist:** Paul Scheiderer

**Instrumentalists:** Ben Beavers, Claire Combs, Caleb Elliott, Charlea Fredstrom, Vicar William Fredstrom, Kade Gillaspy, Dylan Green, Cadin Gruenwald, Chris Kern, Ricardo Lara-Enriquez, Migue Lara-Marquez, Ryan Mellencamp

**Handbells:** Brad Dyer, Heather Dyer, Clifton Foster, Sandy Foster, Mary Koop, Patti Miller, Janis Mundt, Susie Rohr, Heidi Scheiderer, Jeanie Schnieder, Charlie Smith, Karla Thompson

*Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center or visit us on-line at [www.immanuelseymour.com](http://www.immanuelseymour.com).*