



December 24, 2020

Church: 812-522-3118

Dial-A-Meditation: 812-522-1345

info@immanuelseymour.com

www.immanuelseymour.com

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLC

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

www.immanuelschool.org

Principal: Dr. Todd Behmlander

Faculty:

Mrs. Julia Bell

Mrs. Martha Bloch

Mrs. Melissa Brown

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2020

Welcome to Worship! After many weeks of preparation and anticipation, we celebrate the miracle of the birth of Jesus! In some ways, the birth of a baby is overshadowed by the commercial side of Christmas and the lingering political and health challenges of our time. But the little child born in a little place is more than strong enough to deliver on His promise to be our Savior. A blessed Christmas!

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.

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

About Holy Communion If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an Elder or Pastor before Communing. An usher will dismiss your row to move forward to the person serving the bread, and then to the person serving the individual cup. You may then dispose of the cup and return by the center aisle.

Large Print bulletins and **Hearing devices** are available from an usher.

+ DIVINE SERVICE, Page 151 +

THE PRELUDE: " Good Christian Men Rejoice" - W. Held

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 CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, KYRIE: Page 151-3 (Stand, if you are able)

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as**

ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymn 368

1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY: (We pray together)

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Micah 5:2-5 (Page 779)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the L, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

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

THE EPISTLE READING: Titus 2:11-14 (Page 998)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

Please stand as the Gospel is carried into the midst of the congregation.

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20 (Page 857) C: (sing) Glory to You, O Lord!

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C (Sing): Praise to You, O Christ!

THE HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Hymn 366

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

THE SERMON: "Not too Little"

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE COMMUNION LITURGY: Pages 160-166;

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER AND WORD'S OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Before Distribution: Choral Anthem: "The Babe Whom We Call Love"

Distribution Hymns: 364, 370, 361, 388, 358

364 Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the [bright] sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

370 What Child Is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
- 3 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.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

- ref Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain.
 - 2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain.
 - 3 Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain.

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.
- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.
8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.
9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!
10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.
11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.
12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POST COMMUNION COLLECT

THE CANDLE LIGHTING:

*L: Rejoice! Jesus, the Light of the World, has come to free us from the darkness of sin and death! Jesus said:
"You are the light of the world....So let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works
and give praise to your Father in Heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16) May God the Father, the + Son, and the
Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.*

C: Amen! Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!

*(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the ushers, who pass the light to the people. **Tip only the
unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle.**)*

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" - Anthem Ringers

After all candles have been lighted, we join in singing the closing hymn.

**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 Heavenly host sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
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!**

After the hymn is sung, please extinguish candles carefully and give to ushers as you leave.

THE POSTLUDE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - J. Weber

Preacher: Pastor Blumenberg **Liturgists:** Pastor Rodriguez and Pastor Bloch

Lector: Vicar Fredstrom **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer **Special Music:** Anthem Ringers, Instrumental, Adult Choir

Elders/Communion: Troy Hehman, Carl Emily, John Hill, Mike Patmore **Ushers:** Kurt Fenneberg, Brent Kilgas, Ben Thompson, Brian Burbrink, Baron Bullard, Dale VonDielingen, Greg Wehmiller, Roger Wehmiller, Mitchell Kilgas, Will Borcharding, Dustin Nichols, Tony Combs, Gary Schneider, Jay Hubbard, Daniel Luecke, Jed Strange

Audio/Video: Kevin Foster, Conner Sims

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*A blessed Christmas to each of you! Join us for worship tomorrow, Christmas Day,
at 9 a.m. as we praise God for the gift of Christ!*

Christmas Eve Altar Flowers are sponsored in memory of loved ones, by Janet Cooper & Beckie & Jerry Anderson and families.