



CHRISTMAS EVE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

December 24, 2022

Seven O' Clock

PRELUDE Variations on Christmas Carols

*Welcome to our combined online and onsite worship service.
If you are worshiping from home this evening,
please have bread and juice at hand for the Service of Communion.*

Worshippers in the Sanctuary are reminded to silence phones.

INTROIT Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *Polish carol; arr. Willcocks*

CALL TO WORSHIP

* CAROL 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

+++ *Latecomers may be shown to a pew during the carol*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Leader: Tonight, O God,
in the silence of the heavens joy is singing.*

*People: Tonight, O God,
in the darkness of the world hope is birthing.*

*Leader: Tonight, the One born in a stable
welcomes us with forgiveness and grace.*

*All: We come to Christmas needing its gifts to us:
Gratitude that overwhelms our sense of entitlement
to much and more,
Hope that dispels our cynicism and despair,
Love more compelling than resentment and hate,
Joy more genuine than mere happiness,
Peace transforming our unrelenting violence.
Forgive our refusal to receive these gifts and use them,
because they do not fit the ways of the world
or suit our wants. Open us to Your grace;
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

* *Worshippers in the Sanctuary may stand, as able.*

+ *Worshippers may be shown to a pew.*

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*Leader: Hear this good news of great joy:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

People: Glory to God in the highest,

Leader: and peace to God's people on earth!

* RESPONSE *(the congregation sings)*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GREETINGS AND INVITATIONS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURES Isaiah 9:2-7

(OT 638)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Ye Shall Have a Song" (Isaiah 40:21; 30:29)

from The Peaceable Kingdom

Randall Thompson

Have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the beginning?

Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept,

*Ye shall have a song and gladness of heart as when one goeth with a flute
to come into the mountain of the Lord.*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2:1-7

(NT 58)

* CAROL 144 In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2:8-20

(NT 58)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Before the Marvel of This Night

Jaroslav Vajda/ Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;

then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.

Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:

Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace ...

Awake the sleeping worlds with song: this is the day the Lord has made.

Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.

Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:

Sing bliss ... sing endless bliss!

*The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love; sing love; sing God is love!*

MEDITATION "In the Dark: About Christmas"

Dr. Block

* CAROL 110 Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY Angels We Have Heard on High Burkhardt

*(During the Offertory, please sign your name in the red Friendship Folder
as it comes to you in the pew. Pass the folder back to its starting place,
noting your neighbors. Please greet one another by name following the service.
Online worshippers, please click the Virtual Worship Sign-in link.)*

THE OFFERING OF BREAD AND WINE

Elders present the loaf and the cup in thanksgiving for God's Word.

THE INVITATION and GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks
and praise, O God, our Light and our Salvation.*

Through generations of the faithful

You promised the Redeemer,

and gave hope for the day of peace and good will.

You formed us as Your people

and called us to be light for all peoples.

Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with the

heavenly choirs and with believers of every time and place

who have received Your good news and rejoiced in it.

THE SANCTUS *(all sing)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heav'n and earth are glory-filled,

Singing praises day and night.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Leader: All glory to You, O God,
for sending the promised Deliverer to Your people,
born of a woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child;
who lived among us full of grace and truth
and lives among us still.*

People: We come to Bethlehem
to receive Your gift and to offer ourselves.

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND BLESSING OF THE CUP

SILENT MEDITATION DURING COMMUNION *Brian Wren*

*Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God, rolling cloud of night beyond all naming;
majesty in darkness, energy of love, Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming...
Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor; angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation, Mary giving birth, hails the infant cry of need and blessing...
Joyful is the dark, depth of love divine ...*

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*This is an open table. All persons are invited to commune.
On this night we come forward to receive the bread and the cup,
symbolizing our journey to Bethlehem and our readiness to receive the gift of Christ.
Come forward to the pair of elders; **take the bread and dip it in the cup.**
Unfermented wine is served. Gluten-free bread is at the center of each tray.*

PRAYER

* HYMN 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

* THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Leader: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Candle lighters will give light to the worshiper nearest the aisle in each pew,
who will pass it down that pew.*

Please do not pass the flame across the aisles.

*Keep lighted candles upright and at a safe distance from bulletins, coats, etc.
Parents, please supervise children closely.*

ANTHEM AND *CAROL Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

Peace, Peace

Powell

*Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all. This is a time for joy,
This is a time for love. Now let us all sing together of peace on earth.*

When all candles are lighted, the congregation joins the choir:

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 hosts 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.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

(Please extinguish candles as the lights come up.)

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Miller

Worship with us tomorrow morning at 10:00.

Bring a bell to ring in Christmas!

*The flowers in the Chancel vases are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of William and Esther Best by Bob Schweers.*

All are invited to enjoy holiday refreshments around the Parlor tree following the service. **The hosts** this evening are Lisa Lauren, Hugh Morris, and Char Lauren; the Gillard family, and the Herro family.

Thank you to this evening's volunteers: Welcome Team – David and Tamara Crum, and Lindsey McKee; Ushers –Mark Connelly, Nathan Gillard, Bill LeFeber, Justin Mayer, Jeff McEathron, Hugh Morris, and Linda Neubauer; Camera operator – Rabah Rennane.

If you are visiting Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its **185th anniversary** this year. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, neighborhoods throughout the city, and as far north as Port Washington, as far south as Kenosha, and as far west as Summit. Our livestream worship extends our community across the country. Committed to "keeping faith in the city," Immanuel supports the Interchange Food Pantry and is active with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity and Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground. Global mission projects reach to Zambia and Cuba. Worship is our first priority and education is emphasized for all ages. Contact Associate Pastor Rob Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org) for more information and/or membership details.

The Christmas Joy Offering, a Presbyterian tradition since 1931, offers an opportunity to extend the joy of Christmas to those who have special need of it. Your gift this year will provide financial assistance for retired church workers with special needs for help and students of color at schools and colleges related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Christmas Joy Offering will be dedicated on January 1. Special offering envelopes are available in the pews. For more information or to make your gift online, go to: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> or <https://www.immanuelwi.org/onlinegiving>. You may also mail your gift to the church office noting "Christmas Joy" in the memo line.

A room for parents with crying babies or small children is located on the second floor, overlooking the Sanctuary. The worship service can be seen and heard from there. Church school for children and youth resumes Sunday, January 8.

The First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m.
Sacrament of Communion
Dedication of the Christmas Joy offering
Dr. Block preaching

Baptism of the Lord
Sunday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m.
Mr. Ater preaching



Bulletins returned to the tables in the Narthex will be recycled.



IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Deborah A. Block	Pastor
Robert W. Ater	Associate Pastor
Teresa A. Larson	Associate Pastor
Susan J. Stoll	Part-time Associate Pastor for spiritual care
William H. Johnstone	Pastor Emeritus
Jean Dow	Associate Pastor Emerita
Steven J. Jensen	Organist
John S. Komasa	Choir Director
James C. Fisher	Parish Associate
Sister Karlyn Cauley	Ecumenical Associate
Sarah Campbell	Financial and Facilities Administrator
Nathan Wesselowski	Program and Office Administrator Custodian

The Angel of the Nativity is one of the three Tiffany stained-glass angels in the Sanctuary of Immanuel Presbyterian Church symbolizing the birth, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. According to tradition, the angel Gabriel, who foretold the birth of Jesus, had wings of red. Immanuel's nativity angel bears the gift of "Peace," recalling the words of the heavenly host to the shepherds in Luke's gospel: "Glory to God in the highest... and on earth peace..." (Luke 2:14)

December 24, 2022