



IMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

transforming tradition

*Eventually, all things merge into one,
and a river runs through it.*

- Norman McLean

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden.

- Genesis 2:10a

*The spirit-messenger then showed me the river
of life-giving water shining as bright as crystal.*

*It flowed out from the seat of honor
of the Great Spirit and the Lamb.*

On each side of the river was the life-giving tree.

*Every moon this tree was bearing fresh fruit –
twelve different crops a year! Its leaves were
good medicine for the healing of all nations.*

- Revelation 22:1-5

(First Nations Version)

* RESPONSE 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1) *Veni Emmanuel*
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION The Rev. Robert Ater

THE SCRIPTURES Malachi 3:1-3, 4:5-6 (OT 889)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes *Sirett*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums, nor his manners,
nor his airs, nor by anything he wears. Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony
which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen, amen.*

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Ater

* HYMN 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry *Winchester New*

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OFFERINGS

*Please sign the red Friendship Folder and greet one another following the service.
Online worshippers please indicate your presence using the link on the website.*

OFFERTORY Chorale Prelude on "Winchester New" *Sedio*

*Children, youth, and teachers gather at the font for prayer
before proceeding to Church School in The Peaceable Kingdom on the lower level.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

* DOXOLOGY *(the congregation sings)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES Luke 3:1-18 (NT 60)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	“Preaching By A River”	Dr. Bush
* HYMN 87	Comfort, Comfort Now My People	<i>Genevan 42</i>
* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE		Dr. Bush
POSTLUDE	Variation on “ Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”	Burkhardt

*The flowers are given to the glory of God
by Gary Balcerzak in memory of Susan Woodward.*

After the postlude, a minister and elder will be at the font to hear prayer requests.

Welcome! If you are visiting Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its 187th 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.

Welcome Team members this morning are Susan and Jeff Terrink and Lynda Peterson. They are wearing nametags and are available to answer questions about the church and to give tours of the building.

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available this Sunday from 9:30 until noon. The **Immanuel Nursery** is located on the lower level; elevator access is also available. A **“crying room” on the second floor** offers sight and sound of the Sanctuary for parents with small children who prefer an alternate space during the worship service. Click the following link to read this week's “Wednesday Grace” email with more information: <https://conta.cc/4fSWr9y>. Contact Rev. Larson with questions.

ARE YOU NEW TO IMMANUEL?

Join us for A Prospective Member Orientation

NEXT Sunday, December 15 + 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Designed for new friends considering church membership, participants will have an opportunity to hear Immanuel's story and learn about our shared mission and ministry. For more information or to indicate an interest in attending this event, speak with one of the ministers today or contact Rev. Ater in the church office (robertater@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757). Invitations in the Great Hall.

Thank you to this morning's worship volunteers: Ushers – Linda Neubauer, Tom Neubauer, Steve Jacobs, Dick Myers, Mark Connelly, and Dave Salisbury; Camera operator – David Ravie.

Join us today for the
ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET
Celebrating Thirty Years!
in the Upper Room + 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



The annual Alternative Christmas Market is one of Immanuel Church's signature events. For thirty years, it has offered an **alternative to the consumer culture that invades the Christmas season** – and has raised well over half a million dollars to support the work of partner organizations in Milwaukee and around the world.

Representatives from **fourteen organizations and agencies will be on hand** to talk with “shoppers” about the work of their organizations, how a gift to the Alternative Christmas Market can make a difference, and how Immanuel friends can volunteer to serve.

Cards are available for \$1.00 for the presentation of your gift, and each gift comes with a brief explanation of the project or organization it supports. **Pre-printed cards are available in the room at the top of the stairs.**

Come to the market and get to know our community in a new and deeper way. Enjoy holiday refreshments while you shop among friends. Think about how the gifts you purchase will benefit people in Milwaukee and around the world.

More market details at: <https://www.immanuelwi.org/acm2024>

Enjoy a different way to do Christmas!

CHRISTMAS IN POP CULTURE
Online Adult Education Gatherings

Next Two Wednesdays in December (11, 18) + 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Beside the biblical stories that ground Advent and Christmas are a number of movies, songs, and fables that come to us from pop culture. Join Dr. Bush, Rev. Larson, and other Immanuel friends each Wednesday during Advent for a conversation on connecting our faith to the cultural staples of the season. Each Wednesday will begin with a short time of prayer followed by discussion on two or three examples of Christmas in pop culture. The Zoom link will be sent in a Wednesday e-blast. Contact Rev. Larson with questions or for more information.

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten
Choral Christmas Concert and Carol Singing
Lighting of the Parlor Tree, Holiday Buffet
NEXT Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us NEXT Sunday for our annual Celebration of Christmas.

The celebration begins in the Sanctuary with the return of a **Christmas Choral Concert** with selections from *A Ceremony of Carols* framed by favorite scripture lessons and carols of the season. From the Sanctuary, the celebration moves to the Parlor for the **lighting of the tree and a story for children**; and then ascends to the Upper Room for a **holiday hors d'oeuvres and dessert buffet**.

Your "ticket" is the holiday specialty of your kitchen for the Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert Buffet. A sign-up sheet is in the Upper Room today or sign up online at (https://bit.ly/2024_IPC_Holiday_Buffet).

"ALL IS CALM: The Christmas Truce of 1914"

Sunday, December 22 at 2:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary of Calvary Presbyterian Church

Join the Parish Life Council for a special outing to *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. The musical production tells the story of British, German, and French soldiers in World War I who laid down their arms to celebrate Christmas together. Tickets are \$24. Sign up in the Parlor or by clicking here https://bit.ly/IPC_Outgoing_to_All_Is_Calm2024 and Rev. Larson will be in touch with more information on how to place an order for tickets using a special discount code. Join us for this story of peace, hope, and goodwill this season. Since this is the last show of the production, tickets will go fast! Sign up today.

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TOY STORE **Gift collection ends TODAY**

Supporting the Christmas Toy Store at Christ Presbyterian Church (20th and Walnut Streets) is a holiday tradition at Immanuel. This year's annual Toy Store event will be held next Saturday, December 14. Over 600 children from the neighboring community (12 & under) will visit the store and receive an age-appropriate reading/coloring book, toy, board game and a hat/glove set. Join the children of the Immanuel Church School in contributing to this important project with new/gently used items like toys, games, coloring/reading books, crayons, markers, stuffed animals, balls, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, school supplies, dolls, cars/trucks, and puzzles. **Contributions may be dropped off TODAY December 8 to place under the tree in the Upper Room.** Immanuel will deliver the gifts to Christ Church first thing tomorrow morning, December 9.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Student Lunch/Brunch

As Christmas approaches, the Immanuel ministers and deacons invite the congregation to keep our Immanuel students and young adults in your prayers as they take exams and finish end-of-term projects and plan to travel home for a holiday break. Once again this year, the ministers and deacons will host a luncheon for Immanuel students and young adults who are home for break.

An email invitation was sent to students and parents with the dates being considered. If you are a college student or have one in your household, please respond here: https://bit.ly/IPC_HomeForTheHolidays2024. We hope to finalize a date soon!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Advent and Christmas at Immanuel

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15

10:00 - worship service; prospective member gathering

4:00 - Choir Concert, carols, tree lighting, hors d'oeuvres & desserts

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22

10:00 - worship service featuring: *Christmas Oratorio* by Saint-Saëns

Christmas Eve Worship Services - December 24

4:00 worship - Meditative service with piano, soloists, candle lighting

7:00 worship - Celebratory service with choir, organ, communion, and candle lighting

First Sunday of Christmas - December 29

10:00 worship service

“Moving Forward Faithfully”

Stewardship for 2025

As this calendar year draws to a close, Immanuel Church is preparing for the needs and opportunities that 2025 will bring. Finalizing our church budget allows us to make the necessary plans for the months ahead, as we “move forward faithfully” into the new year. If you did not receive a pledge form in the mail, please contact the church office (ipc@immanuelwi.org). Extra pledge packets are on the Great Hall tables.

THANK YOU

The pledge goal for 2025 is \$1,020,308. Pledges received to date total \$820,041.

We are grateful to the members and friends who have made gifts and pledges for the work of the church in 2025. We also thank those who support the church through regular Sunday offerings, time, and prayer.

Gwen Abig
Rick and Mary Beth Allsop
Kathryn and Salvatore Amato
Deborah Anderson
Hannah and Steve Anderson
Patsy and Richard Aster
Robert Ater and Greg Baer
Carl and Mary Backus
Gary Balcerzak and Thomas Ewing
Cheryl Banks
Wilbert Bauer
John Becker
David Benner
Robert and Jill Bewell
Judith Blackbourn
Kathleen Blake
D. Rodney and Mary Bluhm
Carl and Jane Boecher
Matt and Ashley Boedecker
Mar MacLeod Brahm
Rick Brewer
Marge Brindley
Robo and Kathy Brumder
Ernie Brusubardis and
Margaret Crowley
Kathleen Burchby
Randy and Beth Bush
Sue Burwell
Kathryn Carlton
Matt and Kate Carlton
Stephen and Danette Carlton
Sr. Karlyn Cauley
Mark Cebulski
Janet Christiaansen
Judith Christofferson
Mark Connelly
Tom Cooper
Jaime Corrao
Jeanne and Peter Corrao
David and Tamara Crum
Leslie Davis
Louise and John Dillon
Steve and Laura Dombrock
Sarah and Joe Dominguez
Marty Dooley
Kate and Matt Egan
Ann Eisenbrown
Evelyn Ericson
David and Ronda Ewald
Jill and George Fahr

Daniel and Helena Faraca
Jim and Barbara Fisher
James and Barbara Flint
Robert Flath
Brian Frailing and Sibyl McCarley
Bennett Frank
Mika Frank
Spencer Frank
Steven Fringer
Dinshah and Shobha Gagrath
Melissa and David Gilbert
Matilda Gillard
Lucy Gillard
Mike and Debbie Gillard
Nathan Gillard
Mary Ginnebaugh
Judith Goetz
Pat and Connie Goggin
Glenna Gransee
Duane and Deb Grimm
Nathan Guequierre
Tom and Wendy Halloran
Rick Harris
William Haury and Ann Foley
Missie Hawley
Laurel Heebsh
John and Sara Hein
Cindy and John Helt
George and Nancy Herro
Madeleine Herro
Alan and Jean Hilgeman
J. David Hoeveler
Fran Hunter
Barbara Hypes and Terry Lee-Docken
Steve Jacobs and Pat Curley
Steve Jensen
William Johnstone
Toni Jones
Christine Karpowicz
Kevin and Alison Keefe
David Klehm and Carol Kraft
Susan Kraeblen
Alice Kuramoto
Robert and Kathleen Landaas
Teresa Larson
Charlotte Lauren
Bill and Sue LeFeber
Kristi and Jeffrey Leswing
Paula Lewein
Jeremy and Jennifer Lucas

Ann MacIver
Janet MacIver
Basil Maglaris and Gina La Porte
Jackie Mahoney
Pamela Mahnke
Martha Mainland
Blake Malley
Tom Marlett and Lynne Oehlke
Steve and Joan Martinie
Justin Mayer
Jeffrey McEathron
Audrey McKee
Lindsey McKee
Patrick and Rachel McMenimen
Marilyn Minor
Bill Morley and Jim Schleif
Hugh Morris and Lisa Lauren
Claire and Ray Moulis
Dick Myers
Joan Namm
Kathryn Neubauer
Tom and Linda Neubauer
Jim Nelsen
Ahna Olson
Amy Pauls and Nathan Wesselowski
Richard and Lois Pauls
Susan and Curtiss Peck
Stacia Peiffer
Elise and Michael Pennington
Dave and Kate Perry
Jim and Lynda Peterson
Keith and Eileen Pierce
David Plank
Victor and Karen Plantinga
Elisa Prebble and Joseph Lee
Kathy Price
Sue and Rabah Rennane
Jon Richards and
 Andrea Rowe Richards
Virginia Riggs
Susan Root
Sharon Rose
David Salisbury
Rick Schnell and Mary Wehrle-Schnell
Judith Schulz
Richard Schwartz

Virginia Schwartz
Bob Schweers
Tom and Karen Scott
Sara Shaw
Scott Silet and Kate Lewis
Leslie and Rick Smart
Nancy Snyder
Jo Ann Stade
Patricia Stark
Robert and Mary Stetson
Scott Stieg
Susan and Richard Stoll
Phyllis Stuart-Jacobson and
 Mark Jacobson
Jeff and Susan Teerink
Bob and Bobbi Timberlake
Carol Tsao and Nancy Debbink
Sara VanderHaagen and Chris Verkaik
Lou Ann and Brad Van Fossen
Garett Volk and Terra Dill-Volk
Julia Vosper
Mary Walker
Gloria Ware
Matt Weith
Vance Werner, Jr.
Stephanie Wesselowski
Debbie Whitmore
Winona Wilson
Benjamin Wimmer and
 Madalyn Davidson
Dan and Laura Yocum
James and Jill Zager
Jay and Terese Zinn

Children and Youth

Esther Dill-Volk
Ben Egan
Timothy Egan
Georgia Frailing
Harrison Frailing
Jacob Pennington
Emanuel Pennington
Joanna VanderHaagen
Phoebe Verkaik

WEEKLY CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

DECEMBER 8	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	Morning Worship ; Dr. Bush preaching
	10:30-noon	Church School for children and youth ~ <i>The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level</i>
	11:00	Alternative Christmas Market ~ <i>Upper Room</i> <i>(coffee and refreshments available there)</i>
Monday	6:00	Choir rehearsal ~ <i>Choir Room, lower level</i>
Wednesday	5:00	Mission Committee ~ <i>virtual</i>
	7:00	"Christmas in Pop Culture" Adult Education ~ <i>virtual</i>

NEXT SUNDAY

DECEMBER 15	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	Morning Worship ; Dr. Bush preaching
	10:30-noon	Church School for children and youth ~ <i>The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level</i>
	11:00	Coffee Hour in the Parlor
	4:00	A Celebration of Christmas: "A Ceremony of Carols" + Lighting of the Parlor Tree + Holiday Buffet
December 16	noon	Building Maintenance Committee ~ <i>virtual</i>
	6:00	Choir rehearsal ~ <i>Choir Room, lower level</i>
December 17	5:45	Meeting of the Session ~ <i>virtual</i>
December 18	7:00	"Christmas in Pop Culture" Adult Education ~ <i>virtual</i>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22	10:00	Morning Worship ; Dr. Bush preaching Special Music : Saint-Saëns "Christmas Oratorio"
	2:30	Parish Life Council outing to "All Is Calm"
December 23	11:30	Meeting of the Trustees ~ <i>virtual</i>

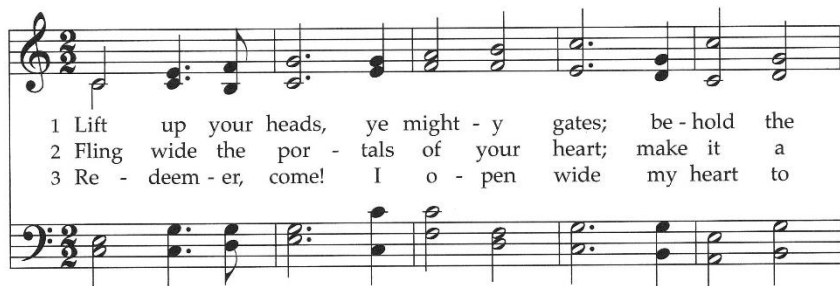
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24	4:00	Christmas Eve Worship; Rev. Larson & Dr. Bush preaching; piano, soloists, and candle lighting
	7:00	Christmas Eve Worship; Dr. Bush preaching Communion, choir, organ, and candle lighting
December 25-26		Church Office Closed


The **Immanuel Columbarium** is open today and every Sunday until noon.

Available date for Chancel flowers: If you would like to sponsor the flowers for **January 4, 11, or 18** (\$150 for the two arrangements each Sunday), please contact the church office.

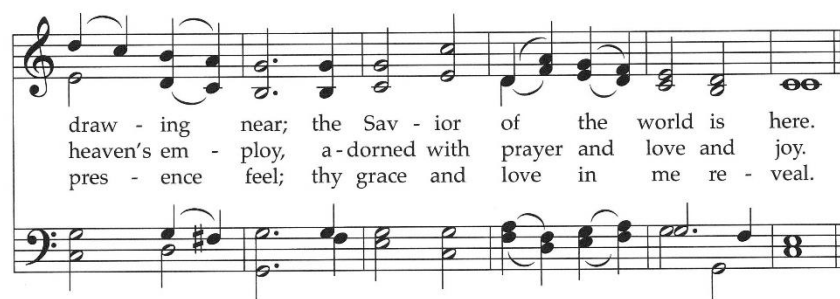
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

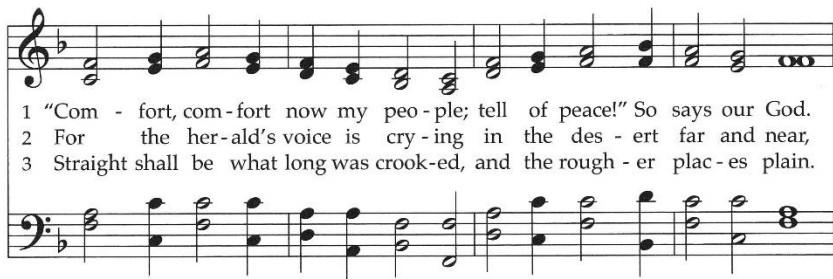
1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

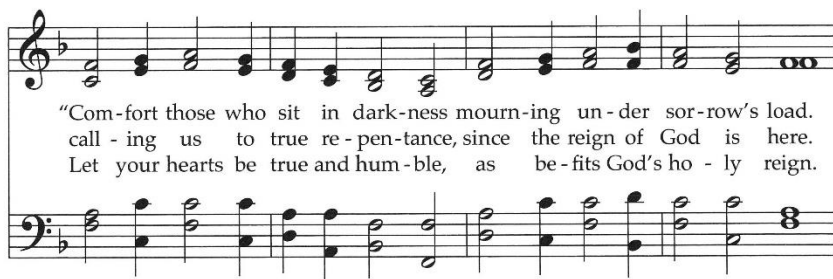
for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

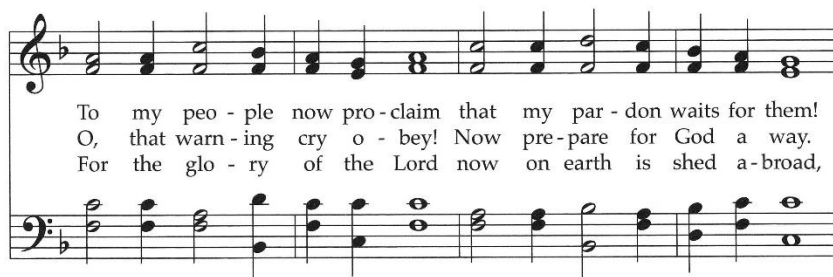
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



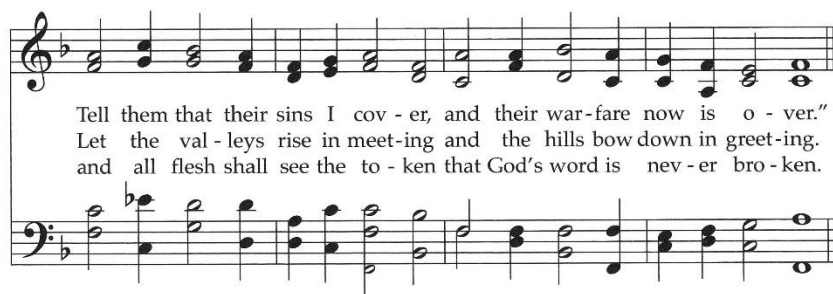
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING: Worshipers may park behind another car in the Waverly or Telluris/Brico (north) lots. **PLEASE place a Sunday bulletin on your dashboard with your name and cell phone number and move your car immediately after worship.** Please **DO NOT** park in the Barnett Gallery lot.

PORTABLE HEARING DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE



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



IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1100 North Astor Street

Offices: 1105 North Waverly Place

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

414.276.4757 www.immanuelwi.org

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Randall K. Bush
Robert W. Ater
Teresa A. Larson
Susan J. Stoll

Steven J. Jensen
John S. Komasa

Crystal Stinemates
Sarah Campbell
Nathan Wesselowski

Deborah A. Block
William H. Johnstone
Jean Dow

James C. Fisher
Sister Karlyn Cauley

Interim Pastor
Associate Pastor
Associate Pastor

Part-time Associate Pastor for spiritual care

Organist
Choir Director

Program and Office Administrator
Financial Administrator
Sexton

Pastor Emerita
Pastor Emeritus
Associate Pastor Emerita

Parish Associate
Ecumenical Associate

December 8, 2024