



CHRISTMAS MORNING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

December 25, 2022

Ten O' Clock

+ PRELUDE

Noel X

Daquin

*Welcome to our combined online and onsite worship service.
If you are worshiping from home today,
please have bread and juice at hand for the Service of Communion.
Worshippers in the Sanctuary are reminded to silence phones.*

CHORAL INTROIT Sing Aloud This Day!

Holst
Piae Cantiones (1582)

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Today, O God, the soles of Your feet
have touched the earth.*

*People: Today, the back street, the forgotten place
have been lit up with significance.*

*Leader: Today, the households of earth
welcome the King of heaven.*

People: For You have come among us, You are one of us.

*Leader: So may our songs rise to surround Your throne
as our knees bend to salute Your cradle. Amen.*

Book of Common Order, Church of Scotland

+*CAROL 133 (stzs. 1-3) O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

* LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

*Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God. Alleluia!*

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

*Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory,
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by Your presence.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

*Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time
for the liberation of all creation;
Release all into Your promised freedom.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

*Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,
born in a stable at Bethlehem:
May Your church be a sign of hope and joy.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

+ *Worshippers may be shown to their pews.* * *Stand as you are able.*

*Leader: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people
in fulfillment of their expectations:
Fulfill our desires in You.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

*Leader: O Christ, born of the virgin Mary,
child of wonder and splendor,
mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:
May the whole world live in peace and justice.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

*Leader: All-powerful and unseen God,
the coming of Your light into the world,
has brightened weary hearts with peace.*

*People: Empower us to proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Leader: Receiving the gift of grace with joy,
we confess our sins with the assurance of forgiveness:*

*All: Holy Immanuel, God with us,
in the light of a new day,
and in the light of Your goodness and mercy,
we confess that we have not loved You,
we have not loved our neighbors,
we have not loved ourselves.
Our feet have carried us to comfortable places,
instead of bringing good news to the poor;
we have used our voices to criticize and to boast,
rather than to sing the praise of Your glory.
Forgive us.
Shine Your merciful light into our hearts;
make us willing to see the truth more clearly,
that we might walk with the sure and joyful steps
of a Christmas people
into the way of wholeness and peace. Amen.*

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

* THE PEACE

*Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us forgive one another.*

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

* RESPONSE

Amen, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus to Thee be all glory given!
Born of the Spirit, 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!

GREETINGS AND INVITATIONS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURES Isaiah 60:1-6

(OT 690)

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Book of Common Worship

Following each intercession, the people respond:

"Hear our prayer."

* CAROL I Heard the Bells

Waltham

Based on the original poem by Henry W. Longfellow, Christmas 1864;
edited and set to music by John B. Calkin, 1872

(Ring bells on the refrain)

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will; Amen.

And in despair I bowed my head,
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill; Amen.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead, nor does God sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
Of peace on earth, good will; Amen.

'Til, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will; Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

(NT 1)

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Still, still, still

arr. Philip Ledger

*Still, still, still, Let all the world be still, For Mary lays her son to rest,
Sings to him softly at her breast, Still, still, still, Let all the world be still.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep, The angels all rejoice and sing,
Heav'n for your delight shall ring, Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep.
Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy! The God of love has left his throne,
Made this humble world his own, Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

(NT 2)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

* CAROL 142 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Une Jeune Pucelle

REFLECTIONS "The Gifts That We Bring"

Dr. Block

... they offered him gifts of

gold

Ms. Larson

CAROL 151 (stzs. 1-2; seated) We Three Kings

frankincense

Dr. Block

CAROL 151 (stz. 3; seated)

myrrh

Mr. Ater

CAROL 151 (stzs. 4-5; seated)

... and "The Queens Came Late" from *When It Snowed That Night*
Norma Farber (1909-1984)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*(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.)*

OFFERTORY

Noel XI

Daquin

THE OFFERING OF BREAD AND WINE

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

A Christmas prayer by Karl Barth

Leader: O Lord, our God, You desired to dwell not only in heaven but also with us on earth, to be not only exalted and great, but like us, lowly and small; not only to rule, but to serve us; not only to be God for eternity, but to be born, to live, and to die for us.

People: In Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
You have given us no less than Your own self.

Leader: What remains then for us but to be amazed, to rejoice, to be thankful, to hold fast to that which You have done for us?

People: Grant that this may become reality among us in this hour, that in open and willing prayer and in song, in speaking and hearing, we may become a true Christmas congregation, and in great hunger experience the true communion of the Lord's Supper. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them 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, Creator and Ruler of the universe.

People: You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.

*Leader: You formed us in Your image
and called us to love and serve You.*

People: When we were unfaithful and turned from Your ways, You did not forsake us,
Your love remained steadfast.

Leader: You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to show us Your way.

People: In the fullness of time You sent Your Child
to be our Savior. In him, Your Word, became flesh
and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,
and we beheld Your glory, Immanuel!

Leader: *Therefore we praise You,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name.*

* CAROL 134 Joy to the World

Antioch

Leader: *You are holy, O God of majesty,
And blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
Born in humility, he came to rule over all.*

People: Vulnerable as an infant,
he showed the power of Your love.

Leader: *Poor in things of the world,
he brought the wealth of Your grace.*

People: Rejected by many,
he welcomed all who sought him.

Leader: *Remembering Your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from Your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising
as we await the day of his coming.*

People: With thanksgiving we offer You our very selves.
Leader: *Great is the mystery of faith:*

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

Leader: *Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine;*

People: By Your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

We come forward to receive the bread and the cup, symbolizing our journey to Bethlehem and our readiness to receive the gift of Jesus Christ.

This is an open table.

All persons, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to commune. Unfermented wine is served. Gluten-free bread is at the center of each tray.

Come forward to the pair of elders in front of the church.

Take the bread and dip it in the cup; commune as you return to your pew.

PRAYER

* CAROL 141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring *Personent Hodie*

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Noel Suisse

Daquin

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.

Welcome! All are invited to remain for special Christmas refreshments in the Parlor following worship. Coffee hour hosts are Greg Baer and Justin Mayer.

Thank you to this morning's volunteers: Welcome Team – Janet Christiaansen, Lindsey McKee, and Victor Plantinga; Ushers – Mark Connelly, Steve Jacobs, Bill LeFeber, and Dick Myers; Camera operator – Christine Karpowicz.

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.

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 Sacrament of Baptism (infants and adults) will be part of the worship service on Sunday, January 8, the Baptism of the Lord. Please contact Dr. Block.

End of year contributions to the church (2022 pledge payments and special gifts) must be in the church office by Friday, December 30, or postmarked by December 31 for income tax purposes. Please call the financial administrator, Sarah Campbell, if you have questions.

Worship with us every Sunday morning at ten o'clock.

We extend the hospitality of the household of God to all persons.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY		NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	10:00	Morning Worship ; Dr. Block preaching The Sacrament of Communion
	11:00	Christmas Coffee Hour ~ <i>Parlor</i>
Monday		Church office closed

NEXT SUNDAY		FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
	10:00	Morning Worship ; Dr. Block preaching The Sacrament of Communion
	11:00	Coffee Hour ~ <i>Parlor</i>

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

Available dates for Chancel flowers: If you would like to donate flowers on **January 15, 22, 29, or February 5**, please contact the church office.

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.**

YOUR OFFERING, here and afar

During the pandemic many members changed their method of giving. Now that passing the offering plates has resumed, you may wish to observe this ritual. Those who are worshipping at home or away may continue their giving by:

1. **Mailing a check** to the office: 1105 N. Waverly Place, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Note in the memo line how you'd like the amount recorded (to your pledge or another offering, like "Flower Donation.")
2. **Going to our web site** at <https://www.immanuelwi.org/onlinegiving>
3. **Scanning this QR** ("Quick Response") code with your smart phone camera for immediate connection to giving options on the Immanuel site.
4. **Texting 833-712-0259** (number for Immanuel giving only). Enter the amount in a message bubble and you will receive a registration link for payment information and verification by text or email.





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



IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 North Astor Street
Offices: 1105 North Waverly Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
414.276.4757 www.immanuelwi.org

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
	Program and Office Administrator
Nathan Wesselowski	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 25, 2022