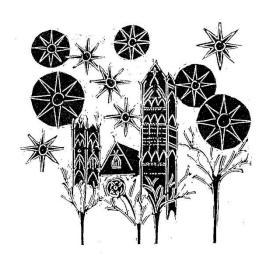


Gracious God,
keeper of the secrets of creation,
visit us through the cry of need,
the unforeseen stranger,
and the unexpected guest,
that we may be ready
for the coming of Christ
in the midst of life,
at the end of life,
and at the end of time.
Amen.

- Brian Wren Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Prayers (2008)



MORNING WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

Ten O' Clock

PRELUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Sedio

Please enjoy the prelude as a time of silent preparation for worship.

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Abby Tsao Debbink

Leader: Today we light the candle of hope.

People: We seek to know the ways of God and to walk in the light

where Christ leads.

Leader: People of God, look around! The presence of Christ is here,

among us and within us.

People: God's salvation is close at hand, nearer than we know.

Leader: Let us enter this season of preparation with hope, expecting to

be changed as we worship and serve.

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

* HYMN 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Robert Ater

Leader: We begin the journey through Advent with the words of John the Baptist: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Confident of God's mercy, let us confess our sins.

All: God of light, you are coming in power to redeem all of creation. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, living casual lives that ignore your call to love. We have lifted swords against our enemies, accepted lies as truth, misused the riches of your grace, and refused your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Renew us in your love, so that our whole lives bring glory to the one we wait for this Advent season; your son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

^{*} Stand as you are able.

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,

let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. A11:

* RESPONSE 92 While We Are Waiting, Come (vs. 1,2) Waiting (Cason) While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Abby Tsao Debbink

Children, youth, and teachers gather at the font for prayer before proceeding to Church School in The Peaceable Kingdom on the lower level. They will return to the service during the offertory before communion.

THE SCRIPTURES Matthew 24:36-44

(NT 27)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM O Come, O Come Immanuel

arr. Huff

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice!

O come desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.

Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; and fill the world with heaven's peace. Rejoice!

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Revs. Bush & Ater

* HYMN 104 O Lord How Shall I Meet You

THE SCRIPTURES Isaiah 2:1-5

(OT 631)

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

Thanks be to God. People:

"Setting the Scene for Advent" Rev. Teresa Larson SERMON

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY O Come, O Come Immanuel Peters

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Dr. Bush

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ater

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, 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.

In covenants with our ancestors Abraham and Sarah, David,

and Jesus himself, you formed us as your people

and called us to be light for all peoples.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with believers of every time and place who have received Your good news and rejoiced in it:

SANCTUS (all sing) Tune: Bereden vag for Herran (Hymn 106)
O holy, holy, O God of power and might,
The heav'ns and earth are glorious, and filled with holy light!
Hosanna in the highest, blest is the One who comest
In God's most holy Name! Hosanna we proclaim!

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 turn to Bethlehem to receive the gift of your own self in human form, in humble places, in our hearts. We give thanks for bread and wine that sustains us for the journey

and light that guides our way.

Leader: O God, grant that the bread we break and the cup we share may renew us by the memory of Christ's life and death, and in hope of his coming again.

Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ has 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Revs. Bush and Larson

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

This is an open table; all are invited to commune. (Gluten-free bread is at the center of each tray. Unfermented wine is served.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Larson

- * HYMN 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
- * BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Rev. Larson

POSTLUDE Toccata "O Lord How Shall I Greet Thee" Burkhardt

The flowers are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for Mom, Dad, Kate, Scott, and Harry by Maggie Lewis.

After the postlude, an 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 188th anniversary this year. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, neighborhoods throughout the city, and as far north as Fond du Lac, as far south as Kenosha, and as far west as Summit. Our livestream worship extends our community across the country.

Coffee Hour is part of the Advent Workshop in the Upper Room.

*Please join us upstairs!

Welcome Team members this morning are Toni Jones, Matt and Ashley Boedecker. They are wearing nametags and are available to answer questions about the church and to give tours of the building.

"DOING GOD'S WORK TOGETHER"

Stewardship for 2026

+ UPDATE + The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is "Doing God's



Work Together." With a current total of 187 pledges, we are almost two-thirds of the way to our goal of 300 congregational pledges this fall to support next year's education, mission, worship, and hospitality ministries. If you need a new paper form, they are available on the Great Hall tables. To complete the pledge form online, go to https://bit.ly/IPC_2026Pledge or scan the QR code above. An ongoing list of all pledges received is available https://bit.ly/IPC_2026PledgesReceived. (Note: the list is updated weekly.)

NEW TO IMMANUEL?

Would you like to learn more?

Please join us on Sunday, December 14 after worship for "IPC 101: An Introductory Tour of Immanuel Church."

Interested persons are invited to tour the church building, hear about Immanuel's ministries, and what it means to be a member of this Presbyterian congregation. The tour will last approximately 45-60 minutes. For more information or to indicate an interest, speak with one of the ministers today or contact Rev. Ater in the church office (robertater@immanuelwi.org, 414-276-4757).

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW TRUSTEES NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETS THIS WEEK

The Nominating Committee will meet on Wednesday to nominate four members to serve on the Board of Trustees (three-year term; Class of 2028). Nominees will be elected at the Annual Financial Meeting on January 25, 2026. Trustees should have knowledge and skills in at least one of the following: building maintenance, finance, fund-raising, information technology, insurance, and investments. Please consider suggesting yourself or another member for this role, being specific about particular gifts for this office. A special invitation is extended to persons who have not served as an Immanuel officer before but have a demonstrated record of participation, service and capacity for leadership. Current Deacons and Elders, Friends of Immanuel including retired Pastors are ineligible. Forms are on the Great Hall, or online at https://bit.ly/IPC_TrusteeNominations2026.

In memoriam

Kay Bibler died on Saturday, November 22 at her home at St. Johns on the Lake. She joined Immanuel Church in 1978 with her husband Richard Bibler. Our prayers and sympathies are with her family and friends. A family committal service is planned for the Immanuel Columbarium in January.

4

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS at Immanuel

ADVENT WORKSHOP

"Light in the Darkness" + TODAY! + 11:00-12:30

All are invited to participate in the Advent Workshop in the Upper Room following worship. This year's workshop will focus on the theme "light in the darkness." There will be activities for all ages to enjoy, including the creation of an Advent wreath for your home and trimming the tree. We are also looking for volunteers to string lights on the Sanctuary trees as part of the Workshop. If you'd like to help, meet the team at the front of the Sanctuary at 11:15.

Copies of this year's Advent booklet, "The Pieces of Christmas" will be available at the Advent workshop!

NEW ADVENT RESOURCES Available in the Johnstone Library

All are invited to visit the Johnstone Library (adjacent to the Sanctuary, in the northwest corner near the livestream desk) to explore our collection of Advent devotionals, Bible studies, and poetry. Check out a resource or two to enjoy at home throughout the season!

A TALE OF TWO NARRATIVES

Adult Ed: Comparing the Birth Narratives in Matthew and Luke THIS Wednesday, December 3 + 7:00-8:00 on Zoom

Of the four Gospels, only two (Matthew and Luke) include a narrative of Jesus' birth. Matthew's account begins with a lengthy genealogy, Joseph's encounter with the Angel Gabriel, and the visit of the Magi; Luke's narrative includes a wider cast of characters, including Mary, Elizabeth, and the shepherds. All are welcome for an exploration of these two birth narratives on December 3 on Zoom, facilitated by Rev. Larson. We'll compare and contrast the narratives, discuss their history, and consider what the narratives mean to us today. The Zoom link will be sent out in an email prior to the session.

PREVIEW CONVERSATION

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Next Wednesday, December 10 + 7:00-8:00 on Zoom

On Christmas Eve 1951, the first opera written for television was premiered. Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* tells the tale of a peasant boy's encounter with the Magi. Rev. David Perkins has been involved in over 10 productions and will lead an introduction to this work. During this special "preview" conversation to the choir's concert performance on December 14, we will also look at the biblical, historical, artistic, and folklore aspects of the mysterious Magi. The Zoom link will be sent out in an email prior to the session.

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti Lighting of the Parlor Tree, Holiday Buffet Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m.

The event begins with a performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by choral soloists; 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. Sign-up in the Parlor or online at (https://bit.ly/IPC_HolidayBuffet2025).

Interested in helping to decorate the Parlor tree? Contact Rev. Ater (robertater@immanuelwi.org).

THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET NEXT Sunday, December 7 + 11:00 - 1:00 in the Upper Room

For over thirty years, the annual Alternative Christmas Market has become one of Immanuel's favorite events. Many in the congregation, and beyond, appreciate the alternative this special event offers to the consumer culture that invades our Christmas season. Since 1995, the market has raised nearly a million dollars to support the work of partner organizations in Milwaukee and around the world. We invite you to join Immanuel again this year for an unhurried and meaningful shopping experience, and an opportunity to purchase gifts that truly spread the good news of Christmas to those who need it most. Representatives from fourteen organizations and agencies will be on hand to talk with "shoppers" about the work of their organizations and how a gift to the Alternative Christmas Market can make a difference.

Make a *plan today* to come to the market *next Sunday* and get to know our community in a new and deeper way. Enjoy holiday refreshments while you shop among friends and think about how the gifts you purchase will benefit people in Milwaukee and around the world. This year's market packet with agency descriptions is available today on the Great Hall tables. The shopping list is online at: https://www.immanuelwi.org/acm2025.

Sign up to help provide refreshments for the market!

Volunteers are needed to bring refreshments and assist with hospitality at the market. Please use the link below or sign up in the Upper Room today.

https://bit.ly/IPC_ACM_Refreshments2025

Questions? Contact market co-chairs Connie Goggin (ccohan44@gmail.com) and Susan Teerink (steerink11@gmail.com). The market shopping list will be available at the end of the month.



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TOY STORE

Gift collection begins TODAY and continues through next Sunday

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 on Saturday, December 13. Over 500 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 on weekdays in the church office or bring them on November 30 and December 7 to place under the tree in the Upper Room. Immanuel will deliver the gifts to Christ Church on the morning of Monday, December 8.

COMMUNITY CHORAL CONCERT Next weekend + December 6 & 7

Our Voice Milwaukee (Chorus for Gay Men & Allies) presents their Christmas concert "Mostly Christmas Joys" on December 6 (7:00 p.m.) and December 7 (3:30 p.m.) at Alverno College's Pitman Theatre. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ourvoicemke.org/events - and if you use the discount code PARTNERJOY, you'll receive a 20% off discount.

REV. TERESA LARSON SELECTED FOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Earlier this week, our own Rev. Teresa Larson was notified that she'd been selected to participate in the "Iron Sharpening Iron" Executive Leadership Program of Princeton Theological Seminary. This program is designed to promote capable women to thrive in God's calling in a range of settings including church, academy, and public service. This program especially equips pastors for the breadth and depth of their congregational leadership roles. In addition, this 12-month program is highly selective with Rev. Larson being one of only 24 candidates chosen. Congratulations, Rev. Larson on this distinct honor!

The **cover art for today's bulletin is from Sister Karlyn Cauley**, Immanuel's ecumenical associate and member of the Sisters of the Divine Savior. She is hosting a **Holiday Open House** over the next two weeks at her Art Gallery at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School with art, notecards, and prints available at "unbelievable prices." Invitations with all the details are in the Upper Room today!

Learn more about Sister Karlyn and her art here:

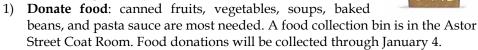
Learn more about Sister Karlyn and her art here https://www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/meet_the_sisters/sister-karlyn-cauley/.

PUTTING FAITH TO WORK

Opportunities for Mission and Service

INTERCHANGE FOOD PANTRY FOOD & FUND DRIVE

As tariffs take effect, grocery prices rise, and federal food assistance programs are slashed, Interchange Food Pantry is launching a drive for donations to help feed Milwaukee families. There are two ways to help:



2) **Donate funds**: A tax-deductible direct financial contribution makes dollars stretch up to 10 times farther – the pantry can buy food in bulk at wholesale prices. Donate online at www.interchangefoodpantry.org/donate or put a check in the offering plate made out to Interchange with "2025 drive" in the memo line. Checks may also be mailed directly to the Interchange Food Pantry, 130 E. Juneau Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

An Immanuel mission partner for over fifty years, Immanuel helped start Interchange in 1971. Committed to providing guests with nutritious food and compassion, the pantry expanded in 2018 to serve all Milwaukee zip codes. Immanuel members Allyson Nemec and Scott Silet serve on the Interchange board.

TIPPECANOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Divine Intervention Ministry NEEDS YOU!

"Tippe" hosts their "Divine Intervention" ministry every year from Dec 1 through Mar 31. This program provides emergency overnight shelter for those experiencing homelessness. Also provided is a nightly dinner. Volunteers are needed to bring in a dinner for 25-30 guests, serve it and clean up, and share hospitality with the folks there. Volunteers are also needed to be hosts to oversee the shelter during the overnight hours. Overnight volunteers have a private space to sleep for 5 hours and be an "awake presence" for 5 hours. Please consider these opportunities. You can sign up today in the Upper Room and are invited to shadow any of the experienced volunteers before you actually commit if that would be helpful, especially for the overnight responsibilities. You can sign up online to volunteer (or to shadow), using the links below.

https://bit.ly/Tippe_DI_Overnight or https://bit.ly/Tippe_DI_MealProvider If you have questions, talk to IPC members Victor Plantinga, Audra Brennan, or Steve Jacobs, or call Laura at Tippecanoe (414-481-4680) to set up a shadowing date.

Prepare the Way, O Zion





- 1 Pre pare the way, O Zi on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi on; he comes from heaven a bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi on; your Sav ior's rule em brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry. Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing. All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

WEEKLY CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30 8:5	5 Choir rehearsal
9:30-noo	Nursery care ~ Lower level
10:0	Morning Worship; Rev. Larson preaching
	Celebration of the Lord's Supper
10:10-10:5	Church School for children and youth
	~ The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level
11:15-12:3	Advent Workshop ~ Upper Room
Monday 6:0	Choir rehearsal ~ Choir Room, lower level
Tuesday 6:0	Meeting of the Board of Deacons ~ Block Conference Room
Wednesday noo	Stewardship Committee meeting ~ virtual
5:3	Nominating Committee meeting ~ Block Conference Room
7:0	Adult Ed: "Comparing the Birth Narratives" ~ virtual
NEXT SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7 8:5	5 Choir rehearsal
9:30-noo	Nursery care ~ Lower level
10:0	Morning Worship; Dr. Bush preaching
10:10-10:5	Church School for children and youth
	~ The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level
11:15-1:0	Alternative Christmas Market ~ Upper Room
December 8 6:0	Choir rehearsal ~ Choir Room, lower level
December 10 4:0	Mission Committee meeting ~ Block Conference Room
December 11 4:0	

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

Available dates for Chancel flowers: If you would like to sponsor the flowers for **December 14, 21, or 28** (\$150 for the two arrangements), please contact the church office

Thank you to this morning's worship volunteers: Ushers – Dick Myers, Jeff McEathron, Mark Connelly, Bill LeFeber, and Steve Jacobs; Camera operator – Tamara Crum.

If you would be interested in serving as a worship liturgist, please contact the church office (ipc@immanuelwi.org).

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.

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

Steven J. Jensen John S. Komasa

Crystal Stinemates Sarah Campbell Nathan Wesselowski Cassie Olson

Deborah A. Block William H. Johnstone Jean Dow

James C. Fisher Susan J. Stoll Sister Karlyn Cauley Interim Pastor Associate Pastor Associate Pastor

> Organist Choir Director

Program and Office Administrator Part-time Financial Administrator Sexton Part-time Program Coordinator

> Pastor Emerita Pastor Emeritus Associate Pastor Emerita

> > Parish Associate Parish Associate Ecumenical Associate

November 30, 2025