

*Welcome to  
Immanuel Lutheran Church*



*Christmas Eve Service  
9:00PM*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**December 24, 2023**

*Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)*

## ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

**Welcome!!** We're glad God has brought you to Immanuel tonight! We trust that God will meet you here in the hearing of God's word proclaimed for you, in the lifting of our hearts and voices in song and prayer, and in fellowship that we share in the crucified and risen one, Jesus Christ.

**Immanuel is part of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).** Our Core Values include being Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded and Congregationally-Focused.

**Moms and Dads,** we love children and we welcome children to worship with you and the whole congregation. If you so desire, we do have a nursery – the room with the large window next to the Library at the back of the sanctuary. In there is a rocking chair, toys, as well as a speaker and large window so you can see and hear the service. Your kids may enjoy the activity bags on the rack at the back of the church.

**To learn more about Immanuel** please be sure to fill out the worship registration slip on the back page of your bulletin and place it in the offering plate or fill out the guest registry located in the church entry.

**Restroom facilities** are located in the church entry (the narthex). When walking out of the sanctuary take a left and they are at the end of the short hallway.

## **The Prelude**

### **Christmas Herald**

“It was an ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds. And were it not for a God who loves to surprise us in the common, the night would have gone unnoticed. The sheep would have been forgotten and the shepherds would have slept the night away. But the black sky exploded with brightness. Trees that had been shadows jumped into clarity. Sheep that had been silent became a chorus of curiosity. One minute the shepherd was dead asleep, the next he was rubbing his eyes and staring into the face of God. The night was ordinary no more. The Savior was born in the city of David; He is Christ, the Lord!

**People: O Come, let us adore Him!**

## Processional Christmas Carol

### “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Lutheran Book of Worship page 45*

Oh, 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*

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

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*

## Scripture Reading:

### Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### Responsive Psalm:

### Psalm 96

*Congregation please read the bold print.*

1 O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**6 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

7Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**8Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

9Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

**10Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

11Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**12let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

## **Second Reading**

## **Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Carol**

**“Angels We Have Heard On High”**

*Lutheran Book of Worship page 71*

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

*Refrain*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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

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

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**Christmas Gospel:**

**Luke 2:1-20**

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there; the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and

wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Taylor

**Christmas Message**

Pastor Taylor

**Carol**

**"The First Noel"**

*Lutheran Book of Worship Page 56*

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep



Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far  
To seek for a king was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel

This star drew nigh to the northwest  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel

Then entered in those wise men three  
Full rev'rently upon the knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel

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## **Christmas Offering**

*Tonight's offerings will be given to the to Iglesia Lutreana Santa Cruz in Santa Maria California. This is a migrant farmer congregation in need of support.*

## **Offertory Response**

**“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **Offering Prayer**

*Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father,*

**All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Service of Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them to the Lord**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All: It is right to give him thanks praise.**

### **Communion Preface** (2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **Words of Institution**

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciple, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

*Communion will be served tonight by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers, as you come to the altar the host will be dipped in the non-alcoholic wine and served to you by Pastor or a Deacon. Immanuel welcomes you to communion this evening.*

### **Post Communion Blessing**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**ALL: Amen**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## **Distribution of Candlelight**

**Lighting of the Candles:** tip only unlit candles to receive the flame.

Please: try not tip lit candles as they tend to drip wax on the pews and carpets.  
Please hold candles upright until the ushers collect them as you are leaving the sanctuary.

**Please keep candles upright** until the ushers collect them as you are leaving the sanctuary.

## **Christmas Carol**

### ***“Silent Night”***

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,  
Heav'nly 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 your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

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## **Prayer for Christmas**

*Lord Jesus, we make room tonight in our hearts for You. Though the innkeeper turned You away, and thousands today still turn You away, we invite You in. Shine in our hearts and help us to continue to shine Your glorious Light of Love into this dark world. Amen.*

(The candles are extinguished)

## **Benediction**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen!**

## **Recessional Christmas Carol**

### **“Joy To The World”**

*Lutheran Book of Worship page 39*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat,  
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Pastor: Go in Peace, serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

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Please join us for  
worship on  
New Year's Eve Morning  
At 10:30AM  
For Lessons and Carols!

Worship Assistants Tonight:

Greeters: All of Immanuel

Council Lock Up in December: Daniel Hartwig

Thank you all for worshiping  
with us tonight.

Merry Christmas to you!