



IMMANUEL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  

---

*transforming tradition*

*The bond of our common humanity is stronger than the  
divisiveness of our fears and prejudices...*

*We must adjust to changing times and  
still hold to unchanging principles.*

*- Former President Jimmy Carter (1924-2024)*

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?*

*- Psalm 8:3-4*

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,  
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking,  
"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?  
For we observed his star at its rising and  
have come to pay him homage."*

*- Matthew 2:1-2*

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

January 5, 2025

Ten O' Clock

PRELUDE Partita on "O Morning Star How Fair and Bright" Pelz

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

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

*Leader: Come and adore the Savior of the nations.*

*People: We offer the gifts of our lives to Christ the Lord.*

*Leader: And tell this good news throughout the earth:*

*People: The saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all. Alleluia!*

\* HYMN 147 The First Nowell (vs. 1,3,5,6)

*The First Nowell*

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Robert Ater

*Leader: God judges the nations with righteousness and answers the poor with justice. Trusting in God's grace, let us offer our prayers of confession.*

*All: God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may reflect your glory through words and deeds from this day forth. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

\* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Ater

\* THE PEACE

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Teresa Larson

THE SCRIPTURES Isaiah 60:1-6

(OT 690)

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Choose Something Like a Star R. Thompson

*O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud –  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'  
But say with what degree of heat.*

*Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So, when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may choose something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.*

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Larson

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Ater

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

The First Noel

*Held*

*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

\* DOXOLOGY 607 *(the congregation sings)*

THE SCRIPTURES Matthew 2:1-12

(NT 2)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Magi’s Helpers”

Dr. Bush

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Rev. Larson

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dr. Bush

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,*

*Eternal God, Creator and Ruler of the universe...*

*Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, as we proclaim the glory of Your name:*

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

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

## 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Revs. Ater & 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. Ater

\* HYMN 150 As With Gladness Men of Old

Dix

\* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE Toccata on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

Burkhardt

*The flowers are given to the glory of God*

*by the McCarley Frailing family in memory of Sibyl's father Daniel McCarley.*

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

## The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

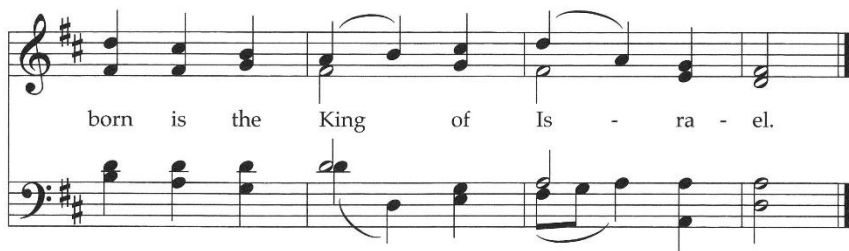
shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

## Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

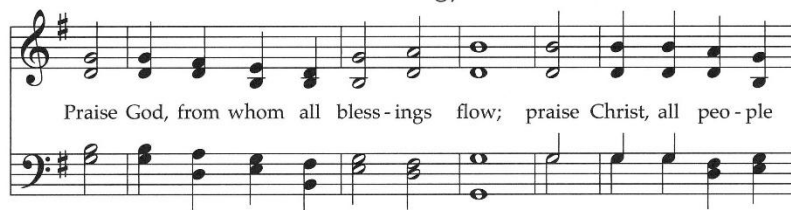
"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

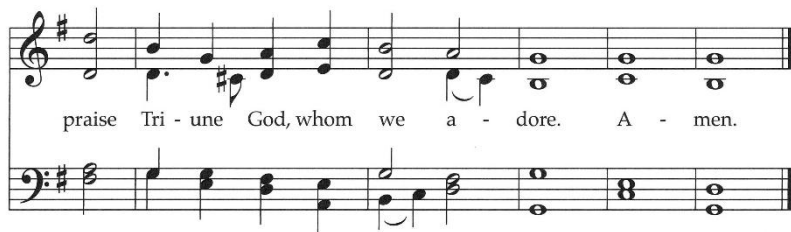
## 607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

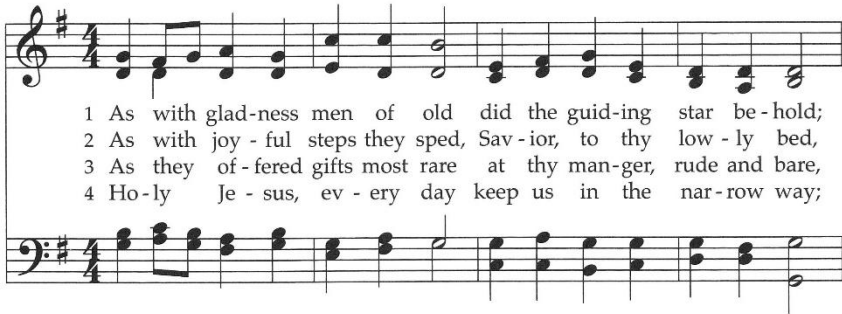


here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

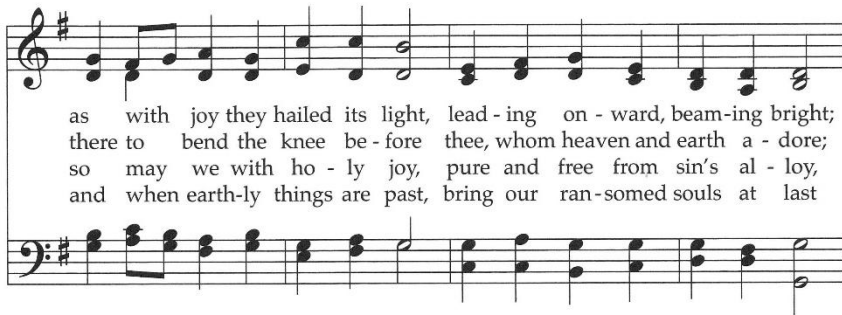


praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

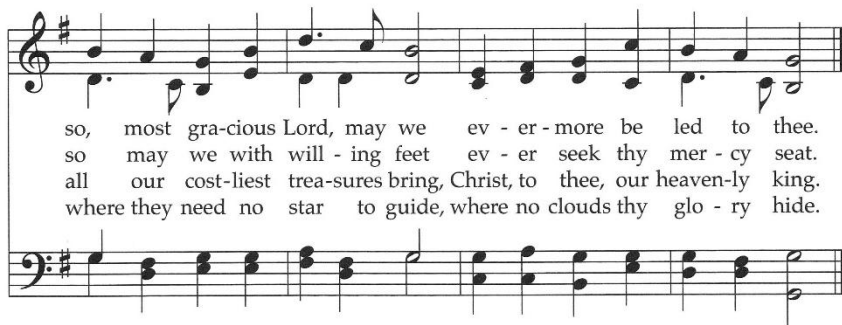
# As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king,  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

# Bulletin Announcements for Sunday, January 5, 2025

**Welcome!** If you are visiting Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its 188<sup>th</sup> 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.

Members and friends are invited to **Coffee Hour in the Parlor** following the service. The coffee hosts are Terese and Jay Zinn, and Mary Beth Allsop. **Welcome Team** members this morning are Leslie and Rick Smart and Marge Brindley. 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/3DrWU4h>. Contact Rev. Larson with questions.

## ETIPHANY PARTY FOR CHURCH SCHOOL FAMILIES TODAY, January 5 + 11:15-noon

Church School children, youth, and families will celebrate Epiphany with an Epiphany Party following worship TODAY. Join us for a King Cake and other Epiphany traditions such as "chalking the door" and creating a star word. The party begins at 11:15 in the Peaceable Kingdom. All are welcome!

## WELCOME! Are you new to Immanuel? Join us for a Membership Welcome and Orientation on Sunday, February 2 following worship from 11:20 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Designed for new friends considering church membership, participants will have an opportunity to hear our story and learn about our shared mission and ministry. Childcare available. Invitations are on the Great Hall tables. For more information about church membership or this event, please speak with Rev. Rob Ater ([robertater@immanuelwi.org](mailto:robertater@immanuelwi.org)).



## **“MOVING FORWARD FAITHFULLY”**

### **Stewardship for 2025 + *Thank you!***

**The pledge goal for 2025 is \$1,020,308. Pledges received to date total \$952,018.**

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.

If you have not yet submitted a pledge for 2025, please do so as soon as possible.

Extra pledge forms are on the Great Hall tables.

The Session and the Board of Trustees will finalize a budget in the next few weeks that will be presented at the **Annual Financial Meeting of the Congregation** on Sunday, January 26 at 11:15. The meeting will also include financial reports for 2024 and the election of new trustees.

#### ***The Stewardship Committee:***

*Elders Kate Egan and Kate Perry, co-chairs*

*Steve Carlton, Spencer Frank, Kristi Leswing, Kate Lewis, Will Loder, Jim Peterson*

## **“WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GOOD & EVIL?”**

**Dr. Eric Wilkinson, philosophy professor**

**University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee**

**Sunday, January 19 + 11:15-noon**

**in the Upper Room**

Whether composing New Year’s resolutions or simply wondering about the choices we make on a daily basis, the question of choosing right from wrong is ever before us. This is an ancient philosophical topic, and to guide us in reflecting on morality, Dr. Eric Wilkinson, philosophy professor at UW-Milwaukee, will lead a discussion on “Whatever Happened to Good and Evil?” Come learn a bit more about moral relativism, moral absolutes, and the ways our minds and spirits can choose the best path forward in 2025.

### ***In Memoriam***

Leigh Joost died on Friday, December 27. She joined Immanuel Church in 1996 and served the congregation as an elder and longtime member, and former chair, of the Human Resources Committee. Her husband, Tom Joost, Jr. and son, Tom Joost, III, are also Immanuel members. A memorial service will be held this Saturday, January 11 in the Sanctuary at 1:30 p.m. with a reception following hosted by the Board of Deacons. Our prayers and sympathy are with the Joost family.

## **CHECK YOUR LISTING IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY!**

As we move into the new year, Immanuel members are asked to check your listing in the church directory to make sure all contact information is up-to-date. If you need help accessing the directory, please contact Ms. Stinemat in the church office ([ipc@immanuelwi.org](mailto:ipc@immanuelwi.org), 414-276-4757).

## WEEKLY CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS

### TODAY

January 5	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship</b> ; 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
	11:15	Epiphany Party ~ <i>The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level</i>
Tuesday	6:00	Meeting of the Board of Deacons – <i>St. John’s on the Lake</i>

### NEXT SUNDAY

January 12	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship</b> ; 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

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

January 19

	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship</b> ; 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
	11:15	“Whatever Happened to Good and Evil?” Adult Education Discussion ~ <i>Upper Room</i>

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 20		Church Office Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
January 21	5:45	Meeting of the Session ~ <i>Block Conference Room</i>

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 12 or 19, or another date in 2025** (\$150 for the two arrangements each Sunday), please contact the church office.

**Thank you to this morning’s worship volunteers:** Ushers – Mark Connelly, Dick Myers, and Dave Salisbury; Camera operator – Tamara Crum.

**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](http://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

January 5, 2025