



IMMANUEL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  

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*transforming tradition*

*Visionaries are those who can find their way  
by moonlight and see the dawn  
before the rest of the world.  
– Oscar Wilde*

*In the midst of darkness, light persists.  
– Mahatma Gandhi*

*We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the  
dark; the real tragedy of life is when adults are  
afraid of the light.  
– Plato*

*The light shines in the darkness,  
And the darkness has not overcome it.  
– John 1:5*

# MORNING WORSHIP

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

Ten O' Clock

PRELUDE      From Heaven Above To Earth I Come      *Pachelbel*

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

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP      Terese Zinn

*Leader: We light the fourth Advent candle as a witness to love.*

*People: With the writers of the gospels and the choirs of angels, we too proclaim the good news of God's love made known in Christ the Lord.*

*Leader: We tell once more the story of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem.*

*People: We light the candle of love, alive with the promise of peace on earth, goodwill to all.*

\* HYMN 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1,3,4,5)      *Carol*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION      Rev. Teresa Larson

*Leader: God has come to set us free, as seen in the Son born in our midst, becoming our friend and our salvation. Mindful of this great gift of love, let us turn our hearts to God offering our prayers of confession and intercession.*

*All: Merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and bear forth the good news of this season by words and deeds for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.*

*Leader: Hear now our prayers of intercession for the world...*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

## 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

Rev. Robert Ater

## THE SCRIPTURES John 8:12-15, 18-20

(NT 101)

*Leader: The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

## 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 Wexford Carol

*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 Isaiah 9:2-7

(OT 638)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON

“From Darkness to Light”

Dr. Bush

## \* HYMN 110 Love Has Come

*Bring A Torch*

## “CHRISTMAS ORATORIO”

*Camille Saint-Saëns*

Soloists

*Liv Olsen, soprano; Evan Maxwell, mezzo soprano; Jenny Clark, alto  
Nathan Wesselowski, tenor; Chanse Mortenson, baritone*

## Prelude

## Recitative and Chorus (Luke 2:8-14)

*There were shepherds, at night in that same country, abiding in the fields,  
and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them.  
And lo! an angel of the Lord appear'd, standing there beside them:  
And the glory of the Lord shone round about them,  
And they were sore afraid at his coming. And unto them the angel said:  
Fear not, O ye shepherds! For, behold I bring unto you good tidings of great joy  
which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today a Savior Christ,  
the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall the sign be:  
ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger low.  
And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host  
praising God, and saying;  
Glory be unto God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill to all.  
Glory be unto God in the highest! Praise the Lord our God!  
And on earth peace, goodwill to all!*

## Air (Psalm 40:1)

*Patiently, patiently, have I waited for the Lord. And lo, he heard my cry.*

## Air and Chorus (John 11:27)

*In my heart I believe, O Lord, that thou indeed art Christ, Son of the living God,  
He who was to come unto this world.*

## Duet: Benedictus (Psalm 118:26-28)

*Blessed is he who cometh, in the name of the Lord. God, the Lord of Light,  
hath shin'd upon us. Thou alone my God art: and all my trust is in Thee.  
O Lord! Thou art my God, I will exalt Thee, and praise Thy name.*

## Chorus (Psalm 2:1; The "Gloria Patri")

*Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations imagine vain and foolish  
things? Glory, glory, unto the Father and unto the Son, and Holy Spirit!  
As it was in the beginning, is and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## Trio (Luke 1:46 and 2:30)

*My soul doth magnify the Lord; my spirit hath rejoiced in God.  
For mine eyes, they have seen Thy glory.*

## Quartet (Isaiah 49:13)

*Alleluia, Ye heav'ns sing praises, Be joyful on earth. For the Lord hath pour'd his  
consolation upon his people, and he to his afflicted will be merciful. Alleluia.  
Ye heav'ns sing praises, For the Lord hath comforted his people, and he to all that  
are afflicted will be merciful. Alleluia.*

## Quintet and Chorus (Lamentations 2:19)

*Arise now, daughter of Zion! Alleluia. Praise God, praise God in the night,*

*praise God in the first watches of the nighttime. Alleluia. That Zion's true glory might be manifested, that her Savior might rise and shine before the nations. Alleluia.*

## Chorus

*Praise ye the Lord of hosts, Sing his salvation, bless his name,  
show forth his praise in this holy house!*

*Rejoice, ye heav'ns, and be joyful, on earth, rejoice in the face of the Lord,  
for he cometh, Alleluia. Rejoice, ye angels rejoice all ye nations,  
now in the face of the Lord, for he cometh. Alleluia.*

## \* LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

*Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.*

*People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

*Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.*

*People: He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Leader: To us is born in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.*

*People: Glory to God in the highest, now and forevermore!*

## \* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Dr. Bush

## POSTLUDE

Tocatta on 'Veni Immanuel'

Carter

*The flowers are given to the glory of God*

*by John Komasa and Pasquale Laurino with gratitude for the gift of music.*

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 187<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.

**Welcome Team** members this morning are Kathleen Burchby and Claire and Ray Moulis. 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/41YQhRp>. Contact Rev. Larson with questions.

## **WELCOME! Are you new to Immanuel?**

**Join us for a Membership Welcome and Orientation**

**Please go to [https://bit.ly/IPC\\_MembershipWelcome\\_Winter2025](https://bit.ly/IPC_MembershipWelcome_Winter2025)  
and let the Session know of your interest and availability on three  
possible Sundays: January 12, January 19, or 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. For more information about church membership or this event, please speak with Rev. Rob Ater ([robertater@immanuelwi.org](mailto:robertater@immanuelwi.org)).

## **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET**

***One last chance to shop at Coffee Hour!***

If you missed the market or wish to purchase additional gifts, members of the Mission Committee will be in the Parlor today following worship to assist you. Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit card. These “alternative gifts” are a meaningful way to spread the Good News of Christmas to this hungry and hurting world. More information about this year’s partner agencies is available here: <https://www.immanuelwi.org/acm2024>.

## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since 1931. It offers an opportunity to extend the joy of Christmas to retired church workers with special needs for help and to support students of color at schools and colleges related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Special offering envelopes are available in the pews or you may mail your gift to the church office noting “Christmas Joy” in the memo line. For more information or to make your gift online, go to: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> or [https://bit.ly/IPC\\_ChristmasJoyOffering](https://bit.ly/IPC_ChristmasJoyOffering).

## **“MOVING FORWARD FAITHFULLY”**

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

**The pledge goal for 2025 is \$1,020,308. Pledges received to date total \$917,697.** 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. Extra pledge forms are on the Great Hall tables.

## ***In Memoriam***

Hester Besteda died on Tuesday evening, December 17 in her home at St. Camillus Retirement Community. A skilled pianist, Hester joined Immanuel in 2015 and occasionally accompanied the congregation in worship. She was also an ordained deacon in the Presbyterian Church (USA). A memorial service for Hester is being planned for early spring. Our prayers and sympathies are with her family.

**“CIRCLE OF CARING” GATHERING**  
**NEXT Sunday, December 29 from 11:20 - noon**  
**in the Upper Room Chapel**

The last Sunday of the calendar year reminds us both of the transitions navigated in 2024 as well as the opportunities awaiting us in 2025. The past months have not always been easy. Many of us have experienced personal loss, the ending of a work career, or the move to a different home. The New Year will likely bring more change, including a new political administration and lingering uncertainty over the state of the world. Our faith can serve as a calming, steadying resource in seasons of transition. If you are open to a time of reflection, sharing, listening and prayer, please join the “Circle of Caring” conversation NEXT Sunday, December 29 from 11:20 until noon in the Upper Room Chapel. Contact Dr. Bush for more information ([randybush@immanuelwi.org](mailto:randybush@immanuelwi.org)).

**WEEKLY CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TODAY**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 22	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship</b> ; Dr. Bush preaching Special Music: Saint-Saëns <i>Christmas Oratorio</i>
	10:30-noon	Church School for children and youth ~ <i>The Peaceable Kingdom, lower level</i>
	11:00	Coffee Hour in the Parlor
	2:30	All Is Calm Theatre Outing ~ <i>Calvary Church</i>

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

December 24	4:00	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> ; Revs. Bush & Larson preaching; Piano, soloists, and candle lighting
	7:00	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> ; Dr. Bush preaching Communion, choir, organ, and candle lighting
	8:00	Christmas Coffee Hour in the Parlor

December 25-26		Church Office Closed
December 27	noon	Student & Young Adult Lunch

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

December 29	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	<b>Morning Worship</b> ; Rev. Ater preaching <i>Bring a bell to ring!</i>
	11:00	Coffee Hour in the Parlor
January 1		Church Office Closed

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

# 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra-cious King”:  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
and we - at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.





the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



# Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)

F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
 C F Dm F C B<sup>b</sup> F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
 Gm7 A7 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
 F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

**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.

**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.

**Thank you to this morning's worship volunteers:** Ushers -Mark Connelly, Bill LeFeber, Dick Myers, Paul Campbell, Steve Jacobs; Camera operator - Dave Ravie.

**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

December 22, 2024