



IMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

transforming tradition

*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.
In Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
You have given us no less than Your own self.
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?
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. Amen.*

A Christmas Prayer by Karl Barth

MORNING WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024

Ten O' Clock

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Dr. Stephen E. Carlton, organist

Gordon Young

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

CHORAL INTROIT

Wolcum Yole!

Britten

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Robert Ater

Leader: Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons.

People: The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem
or in Times Square,

*Leader: for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way
to Jerusalem --*

People: determinedly, inevitably . . .

Leader: Even now it comes in the face of hatred and warring --

People: no atrocity too terrible to stop it,

Leader: no Herod strong enough,

People: no hurt deep enough,

Leader: no curse shocking enough,

People: no disaster shattering enough.

All: For someone on earth will see the star,
someone will hear the angel voices,
someone will run to Bethlehem,
someone will know peace and goodwill:
the Christ will be born!

Ann Weems ©1980

* HYMN 134 Joy to the World

Antioch

* LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Revs. Ater & Bush

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

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

* *Stand as you are able.*

*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.

*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

Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

*Leader: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,*

*People: because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that has been shown them according to God's mercy,
according to the abundance of God's steadfast love.*

*Leader: For God has said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and God became their savior in all their distress. (Isaiah 63:7-9a)*

*All: God of mercy and of steadfast love, we confess that we
are people in distress. We recall the year just past with
more regret than gratitude, and approach*

the year ahead with apprehension and too little hope. Forgive our fear and faithlessness, and call us again to find in Your gift of a savior both purpose and promise. Set us on our way confident of the good news that we are all Your children, and make us bold to proclaim that great good news, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

* 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.

* RESPONSE 107 Awake! Awake! (vs. 4) *(the congregation sings)*

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.

Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.

Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Bush

THE SCRIPTURES Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17 (OT 582; NT 201)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A New Year Carol

Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go. *Sing levy dew...*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in. *Sing levy dew...*

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Bush

* HYMN 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.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Bush

Dedication of the Christmas Joy Offering

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

Away In A Manger

G. Young

*After the offertory, children are invited to come forward
and join hands around the font for prayer.*

Church School resumes next Sunday.

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.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Finding Christmas”

Rev. Ater

* HYMN 141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring
(*Ring bells on the refrain*)

Personent Hodie

* BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Rev. Ater

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

G. Young

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by Tamara and David Crum
in appreciation for the Ministers and Deacons for their ministry and support.*

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 **187th anniversary** this year. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, neighborhoods throughout the city, 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 Jeanne and Peter Corrao, Steve and Linda Dombrock. **Welcome Team** members this morning are Toni Jones, Eileen and Keith Pierce. They are wearing nametags and are available to answer questions about the church and to give tours of the building.

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. **Nursery Care and Church School for children and youth resumes NEXT Sunday, January 5.**

The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be part of the worship service on Sunday, January 12. Please contact Rev. Larson (teresalarson@immanuelwi.org) about presenting a child for baptism or making a profession of faith.

Rev. Larson is on vacation and will return to the office on January 2.

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

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

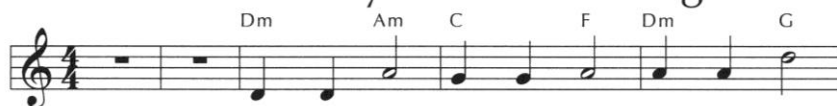
her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring



1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him. *Id - e - o - o - o,
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this Latin carol for Christmas may have roots several centuries older than its 16th-century emergence, the text was all in one language until its 20th-century translator chose to adopt the original last two lines of the fourth stanza as a unifying refrain in all stanzas.

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). *We dedicate the Christmas Joy Offering today.* 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.

"CIRCLE OF CARING" GATHERING

**TODAY 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 TODAY from 11:20 until noon in the Upper Room Chapel. Contact Dr. Bush for more information (randybush@immanuelwi.org).

EPIPHANY PARTY FOR CHURCH SCHOOL FAMILIES

NEXT Sunday, January 5 + 11:15-noon

Church School children, youth, and families will celebrate Epiphany with an Epiphany Party following worship next Sunday. 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

Please go to 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).

"MOVING FORWARD FAITHFULLY"

Stewardship for 2025 + *Thank you!*

The pledge goal for 2025 is \$1,020,308. Pledges received to date total \$920,032.

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.

Gwen Abig	Jeanne and Peter Corrao
Rick and Mary Beth Allsop	Lana Cramer and Keith Schmitz
Kathryn and Salvatore Amato	John and Catherine Crichton
Deborah Anderson	David and Tamara Crum
Hannah and Steve Anderson	Terri Danola
Patsy and Richard Aster	Leslie Davis
Robert Ater and Greg Baer	John and Emily Densmore
Carl and Mary Backus	Louise and John Dillon
Gary Balcerzak and Thomas Ewing	Steve and Laura Dombrock
Cheryl Banks	Sarah and Joe Dominguez
Wilbert Bauer	Marty Dooley
John Becker	Kate and Matt Egan
Susan and Ryan Becker	Ann Eisenbrown
David Benner	Evelyn Ericson
Robert and Jill Bewell	David and Ronda Ewald
Judith Blackbourn	Jill and George Fahr
Kathleen Blake	Daniel and Helena Faraca
D. Rodney and Mary Bluhm	Jim and Barbara Fisher
Carl and Jane Boecher	James and Barbara Flint
Matt and Ashley Boedecker	Robert Flath
Mar MacLeod Brahm	Brian Frailing and Sibyl McCarley
Rick Brewer	Bennett Frank
Marge Brindley	Mika Frank
Robo and Kathy Brumder	Spencer Frank
Ernie Brusubardis and Margaret Crowley	Steven Fringer
David Buckholdt	Dinshah and Shobha Gagrat
Kathleen Burchby	Melissa and David Gilbert
Sue Burwell	Matilda Gillard
Randy and Beth Bush	Lucy Gillard
Kenneth Buss	Mike and Debbie Gillard
Kathryn Carlton	Nathan Gillard
Matt and Kate Carlton	Mary Ginnebaugh
Stephen and Danette Carlton	Judith Goetz
Sr. Karlyn Cauley	Pat and Connie Goggin
Mark Cebulski	Glenna Gransee
Janet Christiaansen	Duane and Deb Grimm
Judith Christofferson	Nathan Guequierre
Mark Connelly	Tom and Wendy Halloran
Tom Cooper	Rick Harris
Jaime Corrao	William Haury and Ann Foley
	Missie Hawley

Laurel Heebsh
John and Sara Hein
Cindy and John Helt
George and Nancy Herro
Madeleine Herro
Harvey and Lu Hewes
Alan and Jean Hilgeman
Mark Hoaglund
J. David Hoeveler
Fran Hunter
Barbara Hypes and Terry Lee-Docken
Steve Jacobs and Pat Curley
Steve Jensen
David and Candice Johnstone
William Johnstone
Toni Jones
Christine Karpowicz
Kevin and Alison Keefe
David Klehm and Carol Kraft
Susan Kraeblen
Alice Kuramoto
Robert and Kathleen Landaas
Teresa Larson
Charlotte Lauren
Bill and Sue LeFeber
Kristi and Jeffrey Leswing
Paula Lewein
Will Loder
Anne Luber
Jeremy and Jennifer Lucas
Ann MacIver
Janet MacIver
Basil Maglaris and Gina La Porte
Jackie Mahoney
Pamela Mahnke
Martha Mainland
Blake Malley
Tom Marlett and Lynne Oehlke
Steve and Joan Martinie
Justin Mayer
Jeffrey McEathron
Kelley McIntosh
Audrey McKee
Lindsey McKee
Patrick and Rachel McMenimen
Marilyn Minor
Bill Morley and Jim Schleif
Hugh Morris and Lisa Lauren
Karen Morrisey
Claire and Ray Moulis

Dick Myers
Joan Namm
Kathryn Neubauer
Tom and Linda Neubauer
Jim Nelsen
Peter and Theresa Ogden
Ahna Olson
Pat Parks
Amy Pauls and Nathan Wesselowski
Richard and Lois Pauls
Susan and Curtiss Peck
Stacia Peiffer
Sandie and Terese Pendleton
Elise and Michael Pennington
Dave and Kate Perry
Jim and Lynda Peterson
Keith and Eileen Pierce
David Plank
Victor and Karen Plantinga
Trent and Joell Poole
Elisa Prebble and Joseph Lee
Kathy Price
David and Irina Ravie
Katya Ravie
Sue and Rabah Rennane
Jon Richards and
 Andrea Rowe Richards
Virginia Riggs
Richard and Karen Rodgers
Susan Root
Sharon Rose
David Salisbury
Matt and Rita Schmaling
Rick Schnell and Mary Wehrle-Schnell
Judith Schulz
Richard Schwartz
Virginia Schwartz
Bob Schweers
Tom and Karen Scott
Sara Shaw
Scott Silet and Kate Lewis
Leslie and Rick Smart
Nancy Snyder
Jo Ann Stade
Patricia Stark
Robert and Mary Stetson
Scott Stieg
Mary Stoker Smith
Susan and Richard Stoll

Phyllis Stuart-Jacobson and
Mark Jacobson
Jeff and Susan Teerink
John and Lynn Thomas
Bob and Bobbi Timberlake
Lisa Trost
Carol Tsao and Nancy Debbink
John and Vicki Turner
Sara VanderHaagen and Chris Verkaik
Lou Ann and Brad Van Fossen
Garett Volk and Terra Dill-Volk
Julia Vosper
Alfred Walker
George and Alicia Walker
Mary Walker
Gloria Ware
Sidne Weis
Matt Weith
Vance Werner, Jr.
Stephanie Wesselowski

Debbie Whitmore
Winona Wilson
Benjamin Wimmer and
Madalyn Davidson
Johnathan Woodward
Dan and Laura Yocum
James and Jill Zager
Jay and Terese Zinn

Children and Youth

Esther Dill-Volk
Ben Egan
Timothy Egan
Georgia Frailing
Harrison Frailing
Jacob Pennington
Emanuel Pennington
Joanna VanderHaagen
Phoebe Verkaik

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

End of year contributions to the church (2024 pledge payments and special gifts) must be in the church office or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. Leave a message for the financial administrator, Sarah Campbell, if you have questions (finance@immanuelwi.org).

PLEDGE ENVELOPES FOR 2025

Pledge envelopes for 2025 are available and ready for pick up in the Great Hall for those who requested them on their pledge forms. Envelopes are provided for weekly and monthly contributors if you so request; they are not ordinarily provided for those who plan to give quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. If you would like envelopes or cannot find yours, please contact Ms. Stinematés in the church office. **On-line giving options are available on the Immanuel website.**

THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thirty years of mission that makes a difference!

For thirty years, the annual Alternative Christmas Market has offered an alternative to the consumer culture that invades the Christmas season! This year's market raised \$80,464 to support the work of fourteen local and national mission partners. The thirty-year total is just over \$800,000. Thank you to all who've shopped at the market over the years to help make a difference for our neighbors, spreading the good news of Christmas to those who need it most. Special thanks to the Mission Committee and this year's Alternative Market Team: Connie Goggin, Leslie Davis, Scott Silet, Bobbi Timberlake, Alex Trumbull-Holper, and Rev. Rob Ater.

WEEKLY CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

December 29	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	Morning Worship ; Rev. Ater preaching <i>Bring a bell to ring!</i>
	11:00	Coffee Hour in the Parlor
	11:20	"Circle of Caring" Gathering - <i>Upper Room Chapel</i>
January 1		Church Office Closed

NEXT SUNDAY

January 5	8:55	Choir rehearsal
	9:30-noon	Nursery care ~ <i>Lower level</i>
	10:00	Morning Worship ; 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
January 7	6:00	Meeting of the Board of Deacons - <i>St. John's on the Lake</i>

LOOKING AHEAD

January 26	11:15	Annual Congregational Finance Meeting
------------	-------	---------------------------------------

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.

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

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 29, 2024