



**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin  
**December 10, 2023**

## Welcome

Thanks for being here! We truly pray that today you find the warmth of our Christian hospitality, the powerful truth of God's Word and the peace-giving assurance of his promises. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. We hope you worship with us again!

### If Immanuel Is New to You:

**Relax.** At Immanuel, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed for you here as well as displayed on our screens.

**Bring the kids.** Our congregation really loves and encourages the worshipping family! In fact, our worship will often include a children's message with little ones in mind. If your children are acting up, please know it's never a bother to our worship service. However, if you feel other worshipers could be distracted, parents who want to calm their restless child are invited to use our lobby area with screens so that you may continue your worship with us.

**Restrooms** are located in the lobby, just to the right of the elevator.

**Make yourself at home.** You don't have to rush off after the service today. Light refreshments are typically provided in our lobby after the 8:00 am service. If you are comfortable, feel free to follow up with one of our Pastors - we'd be honored if you would take the time to introduce yourself!

**Don't feel obligated.** Our members give financial offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks and praise for his amazing love. Please know that you are our guests and we're simply happy you've come to hear about Jesus and his Word today. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

**Cell phones.** To remove as many distractions as possible from worshipping God today, we kindly ask that you silence your phone before the service.

**Questions?** If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, or have questions about our PreK thru 8th grade school, our pastors or principal would love to help. Feel free to contact them at any time (*their contact info is included on the announcement insert*). You may also browse the information counter in our lobby for magazines, brochures and devotional resources.



IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN

# Second Sunday of Advent

## Opening Prayers – “My Soul in Stillness Waits” & Isaiah 40

(CW 325)

PASTOR: O Lord, you encourage us to “be still and know that you” God are ruling over all things for our eternal good.

**CONG: Take away our fears and help us to WAIT for you in the stillness of faith.**

*(vocalist) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.*

For thousands of years, believers were waiting for the promised Messiah to save them. Time after time, God reassured them in his Word and reminded them to “*be still and know that he was God.*” So, they held tightly to his promises until the One for whom their souls longed would arrive. As believers today, in stillness, we too await his return.

*(vocalist) Immanuel, you've come to save your people To pay the ransom for our ev'ry sin; Both God and man, provider of our rescue.*

### REFRAIN



For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;  
tru - ly my hope is in you.

PASTOR: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

*(Is 40:1-2)*

*(vocalist) O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, Your radiance shines in all who look to you. Come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. **Refrain***

PASTOR: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.” *(Is 40:3-5)*

(vocalist) *O King of Glory, come and reign within us. Make straight the paths for us to see our sin. Rule us in love, forgiveness that will free us. Refrain*

PASTOR: "See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." (Is 40:10-11)

### REFRAIN



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits;  
tru - ly my hope is in you.

PASTOR: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our journey through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

**CONG: with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## 10:30 am Service – The Christian Baptisms of Benson and Olive Hall

### God's Word – Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." <sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say

to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

## Song of Praise – “Will We Know Him”

*(adult choir)*

## Today’s Message from our Loving God – Genesis 37:1–4

<sup>1</sup> Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> This is the account of Jacob’s family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. <sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

*Things I’d like to remember this week...*

***The Clothing of the King: An Envious Style***

## Song – “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

*(CW 312:1-2,4)*

## Our Thank Offerings

*I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness  
and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. Psalm 7:17*



[ilutheran.org/imhere](http://ilutheran.org/imhere)

## Our Responsive Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

All-knowing God, through many centuries you repeated and reaffirmed your promise to send the offspring of a woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through prophets like Isaiah, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**Today we praise you, Lord, for keeping your promise and sending Jesus to destroy the devil’s work.**

As we prepare to remember and celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter the pride in our hearts and awaken us from spiritual slumber and apathy. But always remind and reassure us that...

### **You sent your Son to redeem us from our sin!**

Let this good news be our real reason for joy this season and the only source of our strength. As your joy-filled people, use us to give true hope to anyone in despair. And in these days before Christmas, rescue us from the stresses of self-imposed deadlines and frenetic preparations. Fill our lives with the peace that only you forgiving us can impart.

We ask these things, Lord Jesus, by your grace, through your power, and in your name, as we join to pray and sing...

*(tune: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")*

*(sung)* **Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, Most holy be Your name.**

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done - on earth - in heav'n the same.**

**Give us this day the food we need; Forgiven may we be;**

**Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto You - In grateful love we bow;**

**And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view - Your mighty presence now.**

**The glory Yours; Your praise be sung - by angel hosts and men -**

**In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue - Forevermore! AMEN!**

### **God's Precious Promise – 2 Peter 3:8-15**

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> So then,

dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. <sup>15</sup> Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation.

## **God's Blessing**

The GRACE of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The LOVE of God the Father,  
And the FELLOWSHIP of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**And also with you!**

**Closing Song of Praise – “Hosanna to the Coming Lord”** (*tune: CW 441; words: CW93 21:1,3-4*)

## **Silent Prayer** – *feel free to use this silent prayer of thanks*

Thank you, Jesus, for coming in your Word to me today. As you have assured me of my forgiveness, I pray you also create the God-pleasing desire in my heart of joy, a joy that lives in my heart despite any difficulties or trouble. Let me live my thanks to you each day in all I say and do. Amen.

*Other personal prayers may be found on pages 255-258 in the front of your blue Hymnal.*



**Musician:** Andrea Dolan

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Matt Zimpelmann