

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



Prepare Your Hearts
Second Sunday of Advent | December 10, 2017
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WELCOME

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Immanuel you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. Come worship with us again!

TODAY'S FOCUS: Since his coming is sure and so important, Christ sends out forerunners in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist who help us to make proper preparation for his coming. They do that with a message not their own. They do it with the message that he himself has given. Pay close attention to those heralds of the coming Lord, the prophets and apostles, and to the pastors and teachers in our midst who have succeeded them to get us ready for his coming.

FOR VISITORS

- **Friendship Register:** Please fill out the Friendship Register located at the end of each pew.
- **Cell Phones:** Out of respect for our Lord and your fellow worshiper, please silence your cell phone.
- **Restrooms:** The main restrooms are located in the Gathering Room near the coatrack.
- **Offering:** Please do not feel obligated to contribute when the offering plates are passed. We understand that you may want to know more about Immanuel's ministry before you support it with your gifts. However, if you are moved to give, you are welcome to do so.
- **Information:** The media counter is located in the Gathering Room Here you will find magazines, brochures, devotional booklets and children's bulletins (printed on yellow paper).
- **Contact:** Our pastor and principal are always happy to serve you. Please feel free to contact them (contact info on back page of announcements).

SERVICE OF THE WORD

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Small children are invited to come forward to hear a message prepared especially for them.

OPENING SONG

I Am Jesus Little Lamb (Koine)

I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. composite.

STAND

Congregational responses are spoken.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 85

M: You showed favor to your land, O LORD;

C: **you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

M: You forgave the iniquity of your people

C: **and covered all their sins.**

M: Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,

C: **and grant us your salvation.**

M: I will listen to what God the LORD will say;

C: **he promises peace to his people, his saints.**

M: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

C: **that his glory may dwell in our land.**

M: Love and faithfulness meet together;

C: **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as myself. I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his holy life and innocent death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our gracious Father, has forgiven all your sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for your guilt by his death on the cross and freed you from death by his resurrection from the grave. You are at peace with God. Live in the comfort and joy of his forgiveness.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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 path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11 | NIV 2011

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² 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. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ 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. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." ⁹ 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!" ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

M: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-14 | NIV 2011

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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² 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. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

M: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8 | NIV 2011

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — ³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ” ⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

M: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

BE SEATED

SONG

Jesus Messiah (Chris Tomlin)

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled himself and carried the cross

Love so amazing, love so amazing

Jesus Messiah, name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

His body the bread, his blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn

Love so amazing, love so amazing, yeah

Jesus Messiah, name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world

Jesus Messiah, name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all
You're the Lord of all
The Lord of all

Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves
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SERMON

Psalm 85

Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

SONG

This I Believe (The Creed)

Verse 1

Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

Chorus 1

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

Verse 2

Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

Bridge

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

Chorus 2

I believe in life eternal

I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

CCLI Song # 7018338

Ben Fielding | Matt Crocker

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OFFERING (*During the offering the MLHS Lancer Link will be shown*)

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

M: Lord, you sent John the Baptist as your messenger to preach the coming of your Son. Continue to send pastors to your Church who will be heralds of the good news, faithfully calling people to repentance, proclaiming the Gospel and administering Baptism for the remission of sins. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord, you are patient and do not wish that anyone should perish. We give you thanks that in your great mercy, you continue to allow the Gospel to go forth so that all might reach repentance. Help us to live lives worthy of your call, and

keep us ever faithful as we wait for the new heavens and the new earth you have promised. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: Lord, you are the God of all comfort. Look with favor on all who suffer from mental or physical infirmity (*including ...*). Grant them healing and patience in the face of affliction, and never let them forget that you are with them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in your presence. Keep us all safe in your arms until that day when you will gather all your people to that place where righteousness dwells. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions.

M: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Koine)

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93, abr., alt.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Sims

Preacher: Pastor Louis Sievert

Organist: Joel Putz

Flowers: Verlinden family in celebration of Larry's 60th birthday

Refreshments: Steve & Kathy Groth and Paul Klunker

Greeters: 8:00 AM – Bea Buss & Harriet Kappelman

10:30 AM – Judy Fuerbringer & Karen Winter

