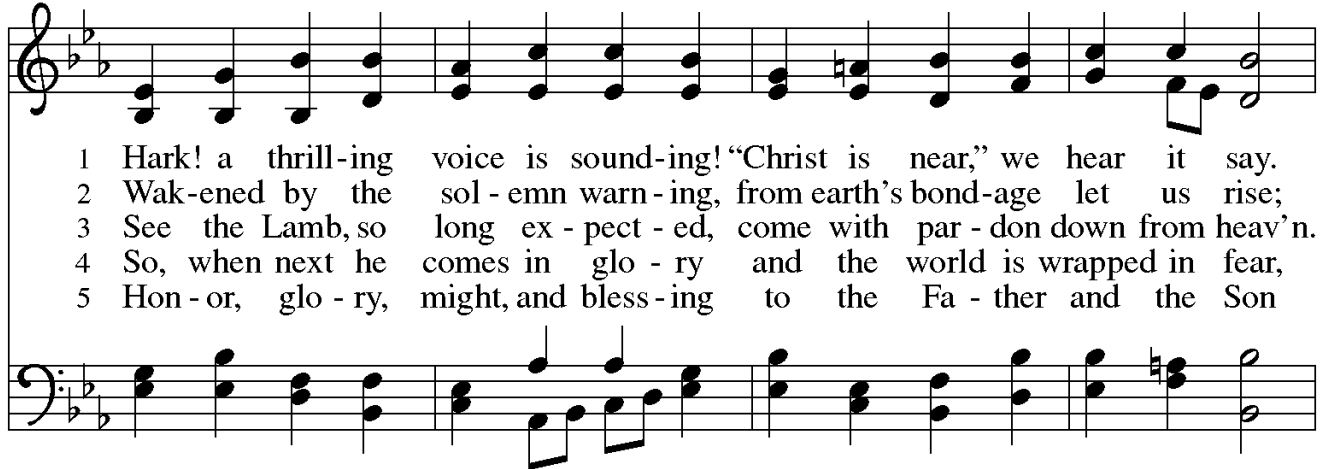
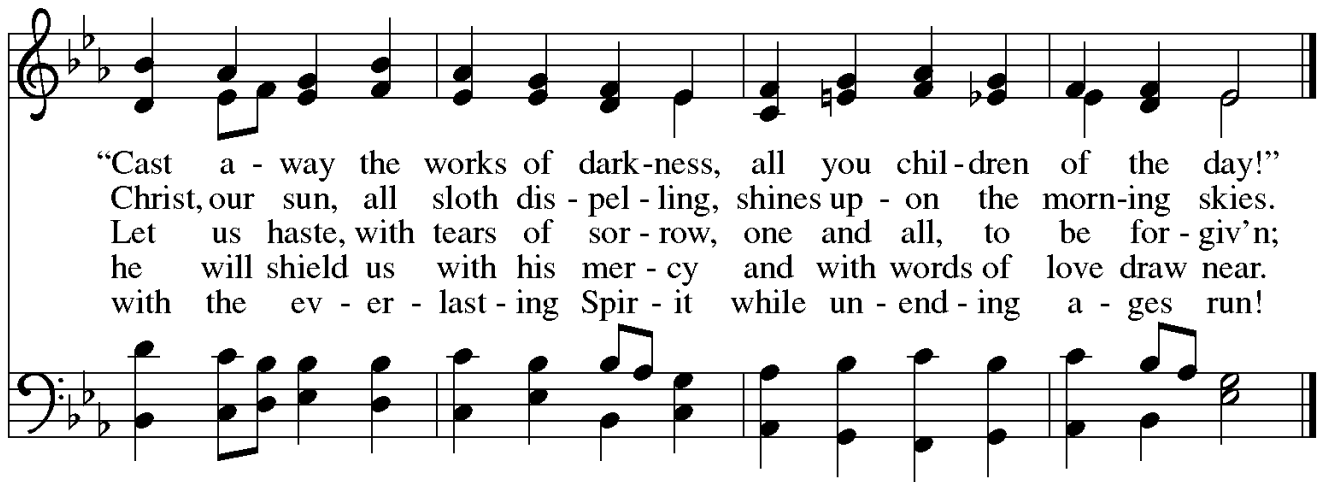


Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20th, 2020
Zoom Service 10:30 AM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Prelude Hark a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding, ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son




"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting

Sing verse 4 as the candle is lit.



1. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Hope with - in our world.
2. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Peace we wish to know.
3. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Joy this sea - son brings.
4. Light a can-dle bright and tall For a Love which knows no end.
5. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Christ we greet to - day.



Hope that heard the a - ges' call As the stars and pla - nets whirled.
Peace on Earth for great and small God's Good News to us be - stows.
Joy like foun - tains brim - ming full. Through our world now let it ring!
Love that comes to one and all. Fear and ha - tred to up - end.
Christ has come, our all in all. With the an - gels, let us say:



Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Love, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

In your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, announced, conceived and born into our world from Mary's womb, you have shown us your light and revealed all that is possible with God.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Increase our faith, and our longing for your presence in our lives that at the celebration of your Son's birth we too might feel our hearts leap to welcome him, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

A Amen.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A And also with you!

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



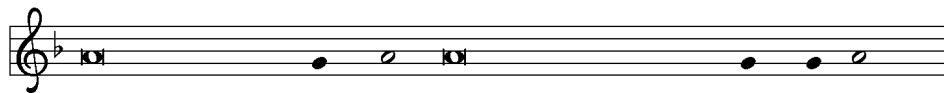
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

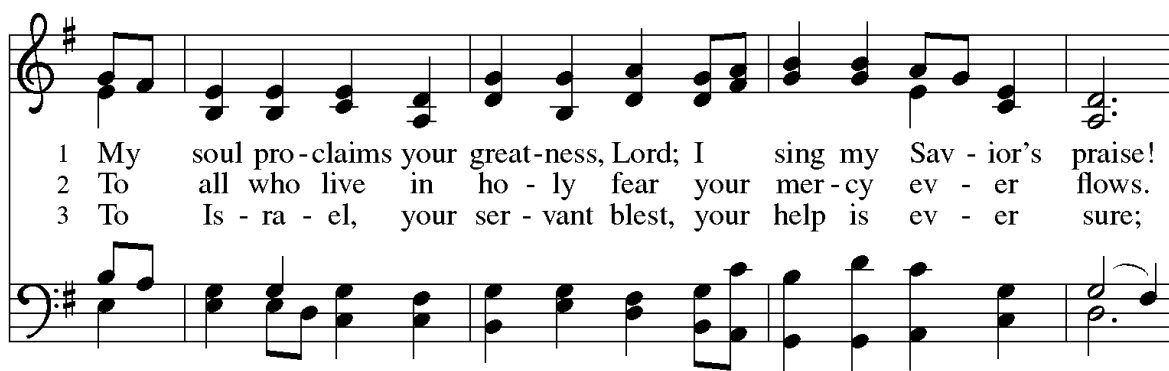
A Amen.

Reading from the Old Testament, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

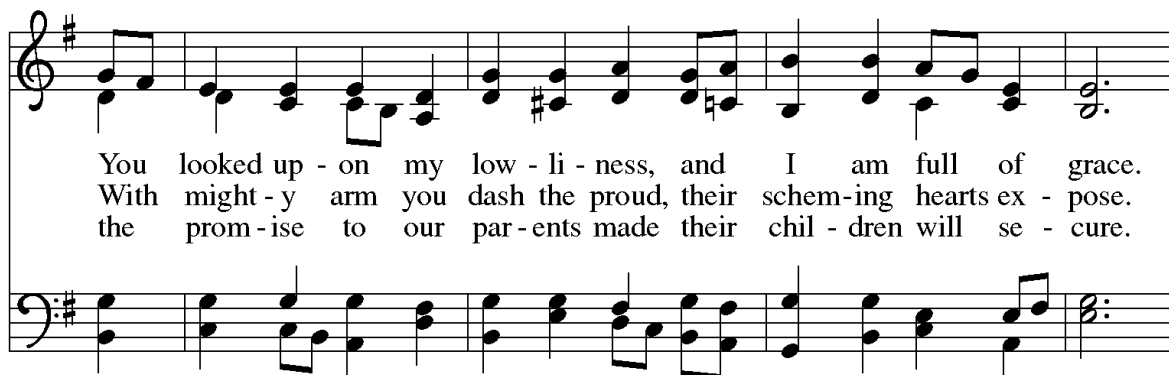
Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

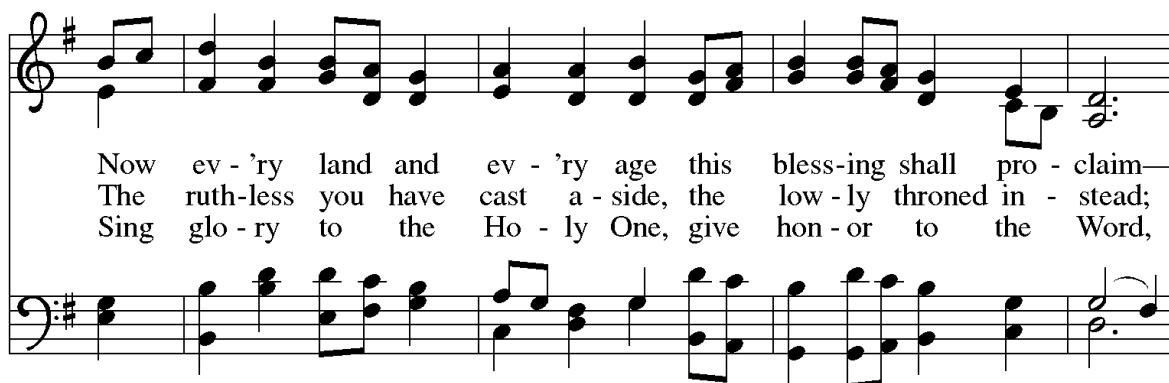
HYMN: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, ELW 251



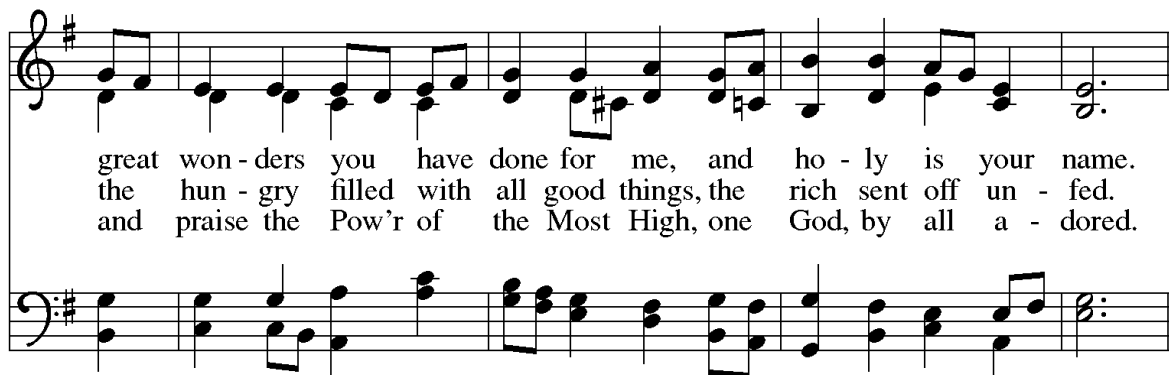
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

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HYMN: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came, ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Prayers of the People

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need, responding to each petition muted or un-muted with the words 'Your mercy is great'.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths, especially those we work with through Interfaith Action of Evanston. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen

us in love and service to our community. We pray also for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, pastor Kim, our president Scott, our council, call committee, and reopening team. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving God, you come to the aid of your children. Bring meaningful work to those furloughed. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Surround with your presence family and friends who are anxious for those on the front lines of crisis. Inspire healthcare workers and medical researchers as we rejoice in the arrival of vaccines. Be a powerful presence with those in quarantine, those who feel isolated, and with all students, teachers and staff in academic communities as they are refreshed by winter break. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence especially for Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Laura Burdick, Mid Carlson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Joe Harrington, Jim Jung, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Ernie LeVon, Elaine Nelson, Veronica Repasz, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, George Stewart, Leslie Thais, Scott Weidler, and those whose names we call out to you here, muted or un-muted: . . . *A brief silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

And now, siblings, for what else shall we pray, silent or spoken aloud? *A longer period of silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

Offertory Anthem: Savior of the Nations Come, arranged by Nancy M. Raabe

We worship God with our offerings. We give thanks for those who support Immanuel's life and mission. [We invite you to do that online](#) or by mail, and with your presence, prayer, and talents.

Offertory Prayer

And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer at the Table

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
A 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.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Communion

Come for all things are now ready; the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Benediction

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coffee hour/Announcements

TODAY AT IMMANUEL

12:30 pm Congregational Council Meeting

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Love Comes Down! Advent Midweek Worship & Fellowship

7 pm Wednesday on zoom

Along with Holden Evening Prayer, we consider the way God's love comes to us as "Love Foretold and Poured Out", in the stories of Isaiah and Micah and the Anointer of Bethany, followers of Jesus whose lives are lifted up by the church in December. Fellowship will follow.

Coffee and Connections Check in!

9:30 am Thursday on zoom Look for link on the Wednesday worship email.

On this Christmas Eve Day, some of us may be more harried than we'd like. And others of us may feel a bit at loose ends with fewer preparations to make or places to be this year. Why start this day with a cup of coffee or tea and settle in for a little check-in hosted by Linda Edlund and assisted by Pastor Kim

Christmas Eve worship

8 pm Thursday on zoom

Our service will be simpler, but full of heart and song and joy. If you have a manger scene with a baby Jesus that is able to be held separately until Christmas Eve, consider Laying Down the Baby Jesus with us as a part of the service, as we join in prayers around the creche.

Christmas Day worship

10 am Friday on zoom

We are thrilled to be offering a joint Lessons and Carols service with Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown PA. You will be invited to "bring some sparkle" to the occasion! Sparkling wine or grape juice for communion is one example! Or a sparkly sweater! Or a bit of tinsel or garland! Or that sparkle in our eyes that comes from knowing Jesus is in our lives.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

We need your input today for IAE events planning this winter!

We have received notice for the following Interfaith Action of Evanston events taking place virtually in January and February of 2021. The planners have asked for a sense of whether there is interest in these vital ministries in these alternative ways this year! Please let Nicolai know if you can be part of our Immanuel presence at nicolai.schousboe@comcast.net

1) Walk for warmth (on wheels) on Jan. 18, 2021

IAE had a very successful walk for warmth that Bert Mount and I were able to make last winter. Can you make it with us on wheels this year? Each team sets a goal for funds to be solicited from faith or work communities, family, and friends.

- When: January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 11:00am-12:00pm
- Where: Evanston, starting location TBA
- What: Drive in a "parade" the 2-mile circuit of IAE overnight shelters.
- Who: Families, folks, and youth of all ages can show compassion and creativity by decorating their car and driving all or part of the route.
- Why: On MLK's National Day of Service, January 18, Walk for Warmth on Wheels will raise funds for operating the Emergency Overnight Shelters and heighten community awareness of people in Evanston who are homeless.



2) The annual vision keepers dinner (virtual) will be held Feb. 21 at 6 pm. Details as follows:

Sunday Feb 21, 2020 at 6 PM

- Dinner: Participants pick up their reserved dinner from a choice of local restaurants
- Community: Each Faith Community eats their meal together in their own Zoom break out room
- Ceremony: Directly after dinner, participants attend ceremony on Zoom to honor the Vision Keepers
- Tickets: \$60.00 per person includes their choice of meal
- Benefits: IAE's direct services including soup kitchens, warming centers, emergency overnight shelter, Producemobile, Hospitality Center, SNAPGap

GoFundMe page for Swedish Covenant Meals through Prairie Grass Café is still open. Now more than ever we give thanks for our front line medical workers. God's work, our hands! [Go Fund Me Page](#)