



Immanuel Presbyterian Church

8:30am Alternative Worship

1st Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

December 3, 2023

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

Celebration of the Lord's Day

Welcome and Community Life

Responsive Advent Prayer

One: If our lives are dry and parched,

All: Lord, send the living waters of your Spirit to revive us, to enliven us, to bring forth new life. Immanuel, come quickly.

One: If our times are empty and barren,

All: Lord, grant us a rich harvest, send us home with sheaves of blessing, fill us with your abundance, and teach us to share the harvest with others. Immanuel, come quickly.

One: If our bodies are weary and heavy laden,

All: Lord, fill us with laughter; give us shouts of joy; envelop us with your gladness. Immanuel, come quickly.

One: If our lives are small and trivial,

All: Lord, make us see great things; enlarge our vision; widen our horizon. Immanuel, come quickly.

*Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong

Advent Candle Lighting

The Angel Candle
Bill and Nicole Haldeman

Song

Angels We Have Heard on High

Arr. Crowder

Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God, in this season of Advent, forgive our ambivalence towards the wonder of your salvation revealed to us in the Christ Child. Visit us again, and by your grace, help us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. We await your arrival, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Song

Bethlehem Calls

Carswell, Cline

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 8-14 NRSVue

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Series

The Journey to Bethlehem

Sermon

Angels

Rev. John C. Tittle

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Music

The Light Came Down

Garrels

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

All: **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.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Concluding Prayer

*Closing Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven

Baloche

*Charge and Benediction

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle

Clay Whittington, Alternative Worship Service Music Leader

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Bill and Nicole Haldeman, candle readers

Ed Vander Woude, Bradley Bishop, Michael Dungan - audio visual

Adoración Ensemble – George Davis, Becky Diebold, Bob and Carol Van Gelder, Sandy Russell,
Joy Hager

Acknowledgments:

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Bulletin Art: <http://anglicanorthodoxchurch.blogspot.com/2013/12/devotion-on-hymns-of-church-hymn-42.html>



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