

# Immanuel Presbyterian Church



11:00am Traditional Worship Service  
*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*Communion Sunday*

December 3, 2023

*Discovering and displaying Christ  
in here and out there*

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

(\*Please stand as you are able)

PRELUDE

*The Holly and the Ivy*

Wicks

WELCOME

\*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.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*The Angel Candle*  
The Burton Family

\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Plainsong

RESPONSIVE CALL TO CONFESSION

One: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

**All: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**

One: Let us confess our sins together.

## 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.

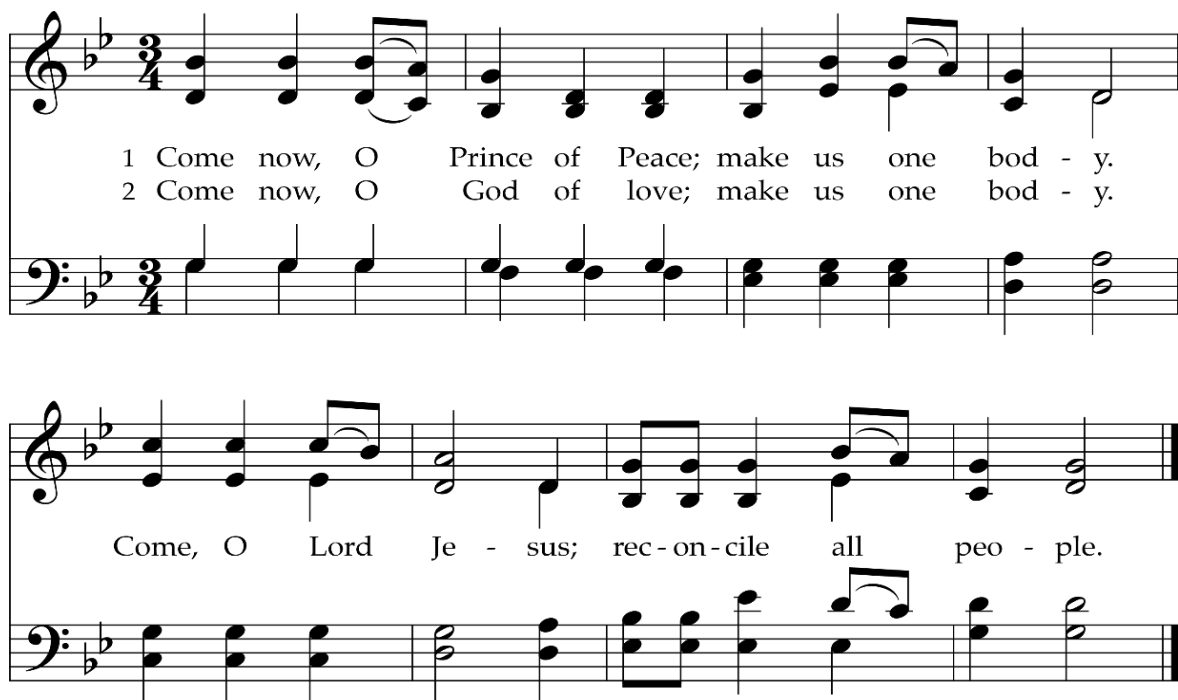
## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: Though our sins are like filthy rags, God will not remember them, but gives us grace and strength so that we might be blameless on the day of the Lord. Sisters and brothers, through Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven--be at peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

## \*SUNG RESPONSE



1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## GOSPEL READING

*Luke 2: 8-14 NRSVue*

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the

city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “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  
SERMON

The Journey to Bethlehem  
*Angels*  
Rev. John C. Tittle

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*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.**

\*HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

French Carol

OFFERTORY

*Keep Your Lamps*

Thomas

\*DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all  
creatures here below. Praise God above, ye  
heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el,  
born is the King of Israel.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All:** O Mighty One, you have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace and hope may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

CONCLUDING PRAYER

\*HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Smart

## Participants:

Rev. Dr. John C. Tittle

Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Brett, Amy and Shane Burton, candle readers

Tim Bacchus, lay reader

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

## Acknowledgments:

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Hymns are selected from the Presbyterian Blue Hymnal (available at your seats) and the Glory to God hymnal.

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



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