



# Immanuel Presbyterian Church

8:30am Alternative Worship

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

December 10, 2023

*Discovering and displaying Christ  
in here and out there*

# Celebration of the Lord's Day

## Welcome and Community Life

## Prayer of Adoration

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Cheralyn Baylor, Leslie Cullins-Schecter

## \*Carol

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Plainsong

## \*Carol

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Holst

## Prayer of Confession

All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## Carol

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Trad. English Carol

## Children's Message

## Prayer for Illumination

## Gospel Reading

*Luke 2: 8, 15-20 NRSVue*

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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

*Shepherds*

Rev. John C. Tittle

\*Affirmation of Faith

*Michael Denham*

All: We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe, who speaks to us by his Spirit through what he has created and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture. We believe that at just the right moment in time, God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb. There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection. We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day, and to offer us new and abundant life. We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

\*Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Music

*Little Drummer Boy*

Jars of Clay

Prayers for the People

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.

\*Carol

*Bethlehem Calls*

Carswell, Cline

\*Charge and Benediction

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle

Clay Whittington, Alternative Worship Service Music Leader

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Cheralyn Baylor, Leslie Cullins-Schecter, 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: "*The Annunciation of the Shepherds*" by Nicolaes Berchem, 1649



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