

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



11:00am Traditional Worship Service
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

(*Please stand as you are able)

PRELUDE

What Child is This?

Arr. Russell

WELCOME

PRAYER OF ADORATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Sue Anderson, Kay Schmidt, Cheryl Wood

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong

CALL TO CONFESSION

Romans 8

One: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done against God and neighbor.

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.

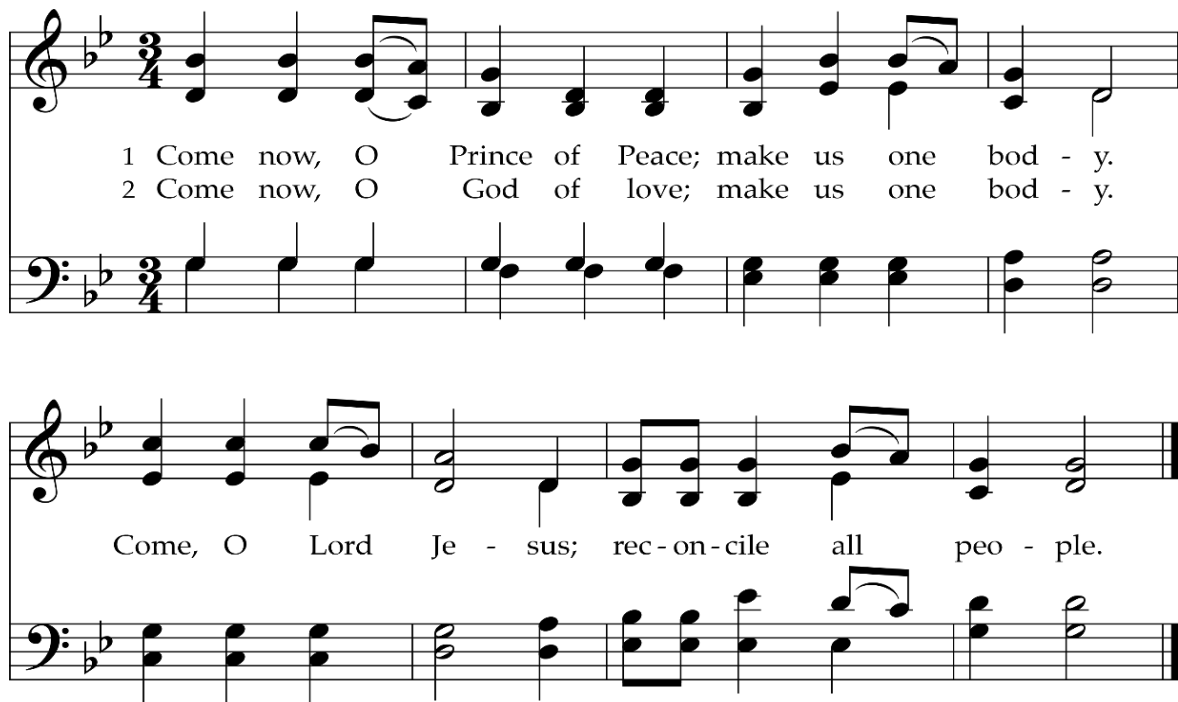
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the words of Christ: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep." Brothers and Sisters, know that you are forgiven and protected by Christ—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, 15-20 NRSVue

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

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ 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.

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

Holst

OFFERTORY

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Immanuel Handbell Choir

Arr. Hurlbutt

*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: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Judy Dunn, Isaiah and Taylor Stewart

BAPTISMS

Hennesea Nations, Isaiah Stewart, Jr., Juligh Stewart, Jaycey Stewart
Sponsor Marquis Stewart

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.

*HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Trad. English Carol

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Lift Up the Gates Eternal

Israeli folk melody

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John C. Tittle

Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Sue Anderson, Kay Schmidt, Cheryl Wood, candle readers

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: *The Annunciation of the Shepherds*, by Nicolaes Berchem, 1649



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