

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Sanctuary Worship Service
Christmas Eve
7:00pm
December 24, 2021

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

Celebration of Christmas

(*Please stand as you are able)

PRELUDE

O Holy Night
Holly Schurr, violin

Adolphe Adam

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF ADORATION

One: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, eternal light.

All: Lord, we praise you!

One: Jesus, King of glory, sun of justice, son of the virgin Mary.

All: Lord, we praise you!

One: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord, Prince of Peace.

All: Lord, we praise you!

One: Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help and our refuge.

All: Lord, we praise you!

One: Jesus, friend of all, source of life and of holiness.

All: Lord, we praise you!

One: Jesus, brother of the poor, goodness without measure, unending wisdom.

All: Lord, we praise you!

One: Jesus, good shepherd, true light, our way and our life.

All: Lord, we praise you! Amen.

INTROIT

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Choir and Congregation

Spiritual

Choir:

Go, tell it on the mountain

Over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born!

Everyone:

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Wood Family

Candle Readers: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! We light this candle because Jesus, the light of the world, was born on this day, and he brightens all things.

All: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 41

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Words and music by John Francis Wade (ca. 1740-1743); translation by Frederick Oakeley, 1841.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: When Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh,

Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Brothers and Sisters, we are forgiven because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Be at peace!

All: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

Angels From the Realms of Glory
Verse 4

No. 22

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the Eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

Words from *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857; music by Henry Thomas Smart, 1867.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter
Choir and Congregation

CRANHAM

Choir:

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

Congregation:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Choir alone:

Give my heart.

Words by Christina Rossetti, 1872; music by Gustav Holst, 1906.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2: 1-7

CAROL

What Child Is This

No. 53

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. *Refrain*

Words by William Chatterton Dix, c. 1871; music: 16th century English ballad.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 23

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Words and music: French carol; translation by James Chadwick (1813-1882)

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:15-20

MEDITATION

Rev. John C. Tittle

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

1 John 1:1-4

All: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King.
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of the virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 Hail the incarnate Deity,
 Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Risen with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth,
 Born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739, alt; music: by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Refrain:

One: Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary

All: be born in us today.

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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

A Christmas Lullaby
Holly Schurr, violin

Schurr

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

*CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 38

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words by Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849; music by Richard Storrs Willis, 1850.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All: All things came into being through him.

One: In him was life.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

One: The God who said, "Let there be light," has caused light to shine in our hearts. That light is the glory of God reflected in the life of Christ. As our candles are like a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may we reflect Christ's light and love in the world.

All: Amen.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born."

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Words by Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John Freeman Young, 1863; music by Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

One: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." As you extinguish your Christmas candle, let the light of Christ in you continue to shine so that those around will be moved by the good things you do so that they may glorify God in heaven.

All: Christ, shine through us!

(Please extinguish your candle at this time.)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Words by Isaac Watts (1674-1748); music attributed to G. F. Handel.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: The joy of the angels,

All: the eagerness of the shepherds,

One: the perseverance of the Magi,

All: the obedience of Joseph and Mary,

One: and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle, Pastor

Dr. Walter W. Schurr, Director of Music

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Abby Tittle, Online Worship Service Producer

Acknowledgments:

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church
9252 E 22nd Street - Tucson, AZ 85710
520-296-2253 - immanuelpc.org