

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP.** As we have just experienced the longest night of the year, we light all four candles on our Advent wreath. Indeed, Christ's light shines in our darkness, and the darkness cannot banish it (see John 1:5).

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** will be held this evening beginning at 11:00 pm. This will be a beautiful contemplative service providing an opportunity to pause in an attitude of grateful prayer and praise. Holy Communion will be served to all who gather.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES**—Please see that in each pew are special Christmas offering envelopes. May your Christmas season be blessed as you participate in giving generously to the work of Christ.

**POINSETTIAS** may be taken home following worship today, so you can enjoy them during your Christmas celebrations.

**2018 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARDS** can be picked up this morning from the narthex or Hospitality Room. Please return them as soon as possible.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** Both Pastor Jackie and our secretary will be on vacation this week. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Jackie's cell, (618) 531-9134. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2.

**NO FREE LUNCH FRIDAY THIS WEEK**—The next Free Lunch Friday will be on Friday, January 7, 2018.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**—If the weather turns bad and you are wondering if we will be holding church services, please go to our website: [www.immanuelonmain.org](http://www.immanuelonmain.org) where the latest information will be posted. If services are cancelled, the first call will be to Teresa Akers-Helle, who will post that information on the website. Then those who are regular attenders without internet service will be called.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR**

**Sunday, December 24**

- 8:45 am Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School/Adult Education/Youth Devo/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 am Traditional Worship
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

**Monday, December 25**

- Blessed Christmas to Everyone!
- Church Office Closed
- 7:15 pm AA
- No Panera Pick-Up

**Tuesday, December 26**

- Church Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 27**

- Church Office Closed
- No Contemplative Worship

**Thursday, December 28**

- Church Office Closed
- 7:00 pm AA

**Friday, December 29**

- Church Office Closed
- No Free Lunch Friday
- 6:30 pm Hall in Use—Bridge Club

**Sunday, December 31**

**No Scrip Order in December**

- 8:45 am Contemporary Joint Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School/Adult Education/Youth Devo/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 am Traditional Worship
- No Yoga

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We seek to be God's people in attitude and action as we:

*Experience and Share God's grace joyfully, Live and Teach God's*

**Immanuel United Methodist Church**

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**December 24, 2017  
4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**

*You are invited to join us in this mission ...*

Reverend Jackie K. Havis-Shear  
Cell Phone: (618) 531-9134

Pastor Kent Schuette  
Cell Phone: (618) 334-3575

Today's Worship Leaders:

Greeter: (8:45 am)  
Greeters: (10:45 am)  
Acolyte: (10:45 am)

Liturgist:  
Sunday School:

Instrument Director:  
Worship Leader:  
Pianist:  
Ministers:

Ms. Sherlyn Buhrmester  
Norman & Judy Schoettle  
Ayden Hendriex  
Noah Penelton  
Mrs. Barbara Taliana  
Mrs. Kiffon Lewis  
Ms. Pat Schott  
Mr. Maurice Mestemacher  
Mr. Jordan Grammer  
Mrs. Rhonda Grammer  
All of Us

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

Greeters: (8:45 am)  
Greeters: (10:45 am)  
Acolytes: (10:45 am)  
Liturgist: (10:45 am)  
Sunday School:

Errick & Cindy Cameron  
Matt & Kiffon Lewis  
Noah Lewis  
Rev. Jackie Havis-Shear  
Mrs. Kiffon Lewis

Word faithfully. Accept and Serve God's people lovingly.

We invite you to record your attendance on the pad found at the end of the pew.

A nursery is available in the basement level of the church.

**Order of Worship Contemporary 8:45 am**

Led today by Praise Community Fellowship

**Getting Ready for Worship...**

Opening Music

Welcome

**Celebration of Worship...**

Worship & Praise

**Celebration of the Spoken Word...**

Prayer

Offering

Message

**Celebration of Going Forth...**

Closing Song

Benediction

CCLI #2836520

**Celebrating Birthdays this Week:** 12/24—Mary Ann Goldsmith; 12/27—Zinnia Allen, Jenny Burgess, Audrey Floyd; 12/28—Mary Lou Grigg, Trish Rader; 12/30—Rich Nicol

**DID YOU KNOW? ...**

... The Trustees are working hard at keeping the caution cones intact on the north side of the building. Winter wind has not been our friend. If you see the cones blown over, please help us by picking them up.

We invite you to record your attendance on the pad found at the end of the pew.

A nursery is available in the basement level of the church.

**Order of Worship Traditional 10:45 am**

**WE GATHER TOGETHER...  
...to Express Our Unity in Christ**

Ringing of the Bell

Gathering Words

Let those who ponder the last-minute gift, those perplexed by holiday details, those overshadowed in any way—let them pause this hour, to see visions and hear good news from far beyond our time and place.

Prelude

\*Call to Worship

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

L: We are that people. Christ is that light.

**C: For a child has been born for us. God's own Son has been given to us.**

L: He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace through his glorious reign.**

L: Let the trees of the forest shout for joy. Let heaven and nature sing.

(Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*)

\*Christmas Carol—*Joy to the World* #246

\*Opening Prayer (unison)

**Holy and glorious One, we have come to sing our praise with the trees and the forests for the birth of your Son. As the earth rejoices, let all people shed tears of joy, for Christ judges the world with righteousness and the peoples with truth. We offer our thanksgiving for the Child who leads us—our Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace. Amen.**

(Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*)

Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle

Paige and Shelly Brase

Children's Sermon/Noisy Offering

Christmas Carols

*What Child Is This*

vs. 1 & 2 #219

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

vs. 1 & 3 #230

**...to Share With Commitment and Love**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

#895

\*Christmas Carol—*Away in a Manger*

all verses #217

The Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

\*Doxology

#95

**...to Hear the Word of God**

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 9:2-7

p. 600 OT

The People Respond

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon—"The Darkness Dawns to Light"

Special Music—"Mary, Did You Know?"

Sung by Tim Havis

**...so We May Go Out and Serve**

\*Benediction

L: In the midst of a silent night sky, a star beckons:

**C: Rise up, seekers, and follow.**

L: In the midst of a tranquil field, an angel proclaims:

**C: Rise up, shepherds, and follow.**

L: In the midst of our loneliness and pain, God calls:

**C: Rise up, children, and follow.**

L: With the promise of new life, Christ whispers:

**C: Rise up, beloved, and follow.**

(Mary J. Scifres & B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*)

Closing Carol—*Silent Night, Holy Night*

vs. 1, 3 and 4 #239

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\*All who are able, please stand

**Prayer Ministry** (+ Indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

+ Libby Metcalf

Gary & Sharon Koenig are recovering from the flu  
Lisa Taliana and those affected by fires in California  
People involved in derailment of the train in Washington

++ Rev. John Shear, strength and healing

Tiana Washington, classmate of Sydney Grammer, bone cancer  
Vicki Aufdemberge, cousin of Anita Seehausen, cancer

+++ Shellie Franke recovering from a medical procedure on Thursday

Brittney Gilleland, adjusting to a diagnosis of lupus and fibromyalgia  
Spencer Bacus, healing from brain surgery  
Molli Hurst, granddaughter of Jim & Sue Ebersoldt, car accident  
Bill Daubenspeck, recovering from knee replacement  
Family of Adam Behrhorst, 19-year old victim of cancer

++++ Family of Tori Carroll, daughter of co-worker of Shellie Franke and LeeAnn Kane,

who passed away following I-55 car accident  
A friend of Grace Havis with melanoma who is undergoing second round of treatment