



Immanuel United Methodist Church

Edwardsville, Illinois

January 2, 2022

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Christal Akers-Helle

Call to Worship

Christal Akers-Helle

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

L: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

C: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

Music Video—*Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy*

Prayer

Pastor David Roderick

Music Video—*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

Scripture Reading—Jeremiah 31:7-14

Christal Akers-Helle

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Sermon— "The Future is Bright"

Pastor David Roderick

Music Video—*Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

Benediction

Preparation for Worship—Gracious Lord, just as you've brought us to the threshold of this new year, guide us as we journey through each day.

Welcome! What a joy it is to start this new year with all of you. May we rededicate our lives for service to God.

Christmas Decorations will be taken down this week on Wednesday, January 5 beginning at 9:00 am. Helpers will be much appreciated.

Committee Chairpersons—All 2022 Committee Chairpersons have the opportunity to attend a District Training event at Troy United Methodist Church on Saturday, January 15, from 9 am until noon. This will be especially helpful if you will be new to your position.

Church Hospitality Renewal—As the new 2022 year begins and Immanuel gets another year to work on getting to know some "old members" new members and our visitors, we will be offering coffee, tea, hot chocolate and light snacks after 10 am service. In order to do this we need someone or families or groups to take one Sunday of each month to make coffee in kitchen and take upstairs and prepare or buy snacks. Then clean up after people are finished visiting. Paperware is available at the church. This is a great opportunity to show us what a great cook or baker you may be. You may also buy donuts etc. Nothing fancy. Just a nice opportunity to get to know your church family. If you feel you would like to help but don't bake or shop, a small monetary donation would help to buy snacks. Questions? Contact Sharon at the number above. This will begin mid January.

The January Edition of 'The Vision' will be sent out toward the end of this week. If you have any news or want a meeting put on the calendar, please see that you get that information to the church office as soon as possible. Thanks!

Pastor David will be out of the office this week. If you are in need of pastoral assistance, please feel free to call Sarah Dierker evenings, (217) 248-0491, or you can call Pastor Jimmy Spears, pastor of First Christian Church at (573) 303-1446.

Musicians featured in today's music videos include singers Liz Ahrens, Rhonda Grammer, BethAnne Havis, drums Logan Perez and guitar Derek Twesten.

Prayer/Praise Ministry (+ Indicates weeks—call office to continue another four weeks)

++ Cheryl Zimmerman, sister-in-law of Jerry & Sharon Prott, numerous health issues
Daughter of Jim & Betty Burns

+++ Sid Helle, who had radiation treatment last week
Family of Pam Clarkin, who was suddenly called home to heaven on December 13
Glen Tipton, nephew of Nancy Phillipe, bladder cancer
Erika Baily, single mother of seven kids with cancer on her brainstem
Betsy Schott, aunt of Lisa Allen, cancer

++++ Former Immanuel UMC Pastor Elaine Smith, recovering from broken hip
Tammy Ziegler Reipshoff, friend of the Koenig family, fighting small cell lung cancer

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 2	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Service
Monday, January 3	7:15 pm	AA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 5	9:00 am 12:00 pm	Take down Christmas Decorations Bridge Club in Fellowship Hall
Friday, January 7	6:30 pm	Bridge Club
Sunday, January 9	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Service

Today's Worship Assistants—Worship Leader: Christal Akers-Helle; Greeters: Noah Lewis, Jill Winte; Soundboard: Matt Lewis; Worship Screens: Kiffon Lewis

Next Week's Worship Assistants—Worship Leader: David Roderick; Greeters: Gary & Sharon Koenig; Soundboard: Phoebe Hammon; Worship Screens: Priscilla Hammon

Celebrating Birthdays this Week—1/04—Alexander Anderson; 1/05—Lisa Allen, Irene Hodge

Celebrating Their Anniversary—1/02—Marc & Shellie Franke

Immanuel's Welcoming Inclusion Statement—As we recognize the value in each other, we recognize God. We embrace God's good gift of diversity and believe all persons are of sacred worth. Therefore, we welcome people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, social-economic background, family structure, and physical or mental ability into the full participation of this congregation. We are called by God to raise the level of hope for those who have been marginalized and singled out for exclusion, including our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Our passion for a wide welcome of all God's children moves us to participate in reconciling and justice ministries so that we might truly be open minds, open hearts, and open doors.

Undaunted

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, "We've already tried prayer. It didn't work!"

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren't always what they seem. We can't see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won't undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can't "solve" sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren't always what they seem.

—Taken from *The Newsletter Newsletter*, January, 2017

Immanuel United Methodist Church

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