



## *Immanuel United Methodist Church*

800 North Main Street • Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
3rd Sunday of Advent

### **Order of Worship**

#### **Ringing of the Bell**

#### **Welcome**

Pastor David Roderick

#### **Prelude—**

Rhonda Grammer

#### **Opening Prayer**

Sarah Woods

#### **Advent Candle Lighting**

Sarah Woods

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

As the candles are lit Loving God, we open ourselves to you,

**trusting that this is how you made us:**

you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.

**Show us the creative power of hope.**

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

**Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.**

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

**That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

**Song—***Away in a Manager UMH #217*

Worship Team

**Song—***O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH #330 (v.1,3,4)*

Worship Team

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor David Roderick

**Song—***See the Star*

Worship Team

**Scripture** Luke 3:2-6

Sarah Woods

<sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

**Message:** *The Ministry of John the Baptist*

Pastor David Roderick

**Song—***Grace of God With Us*

Worship Team

**Prayer of Thanks**

Pastor David Roderick

**Song—***Doxology UMH #95*

Worship Team

**Benediction**

Pastor David Roderick

**Worship Team:** Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

### **The Passing of Pastor Elaine Smith**

We have learned of the passing of Elaine Smith, former pastor of Immanuel UMC, where she served until her retirement in 2006. A memorial service will be held tomorrow, Monday, December 16, 2024, at St. John's United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m with a Celebration of Life immediately following at St John's UMC celebrating both the lives of Elaine and her husband Robert, until 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship**—We will celebrate Christmas Eve on Tuesday, December 24th with a worship service at 5:00 pm. This service will include candlelight and communion. All are welcome!

**Advent Studies**—A reminder that will be holding a weekly bible study to coincide with our Sunday services in December. Dates and times are as follows:

#### **Prepare the Way for the Lord:**

*Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*

Monday's 6:30-7:45 December 2nd—December 23rd at Rainbow House

#### **Global Migration, Immigration, and Beloved Community**

*Led by Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai*

Tuesday's - 7 PM December 3rd—December 17th at Rainbow House or online.

**Angel Tree Ministry**—Thank you to those that donated gifts on behalf of a parent who is currently incarcerated this holiday season. Your generosity will help make a child's holiday a happy one.

**Friday Food and Fellowship** has ended for 2024. We will resume in 2025 with lunches being held on January 10th and January 24th. Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you!

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**Celebrating Birthdays This Week:** 12/18—Sydney Grammer, Donna Hardbeck; 12/19—Sharon Koenig; 12/21—Tony Anderson

**Our Online Calendar** can be accessed at any time by following this link:

<https://73818207.view-events.com>.

### **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.

## Calendar for the Week

Monday, December 16	10:30 am	Head Start Learn and Play until 11:30am
	4:00 pm	Head Start Parent Meetings until 6:00pm
	6:30 pm	Advent Study at Rainbow House
	7:30 pm	AA
Tuesday, December 17	6:00 pm	OWL Class until 8:00pm
	7:00 pm	Video Advent Study—Online and/or at Rainbow House
Wednesday, December 18	7:30 pm	Rainbow House Adult Group
Thursday, December 19	9:00 am	UWF Holiday Bag Assembly & Delivery
Friday, December 20	All Day	No Events Scheduled
Saturday, December 21	All Day	No Events Scheduled
Sunday, December 22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship

### This Week's Worship Assistants:

Liturgist: Sarah Woods  
Greeter: Larry & Linda Duckworth  
Soundboard: Christal Akers-Helle  
Worship Screens: Tami Masinelli

### Next Week's Worship Assistants:

Liturgist: Dave Norris  
Greeter: Jill Winte  
Soundboard: Matt Lewis  
Worship Screens: Kiffon Lewis



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## Prayer/Praise Ministry

Please pray for:

- Young Koenig family friend diagnosed with Stage 3 Colon cancer as they have surgery and begin chemo treatments.
- Anita Seehausen, comfort and healing following knee replacement surgery.
- Penny May, comfort and healing following hip replacement surgery on December 12th.
- Gary Ramey, Stepfather of Emily Spitze, fighting cancer that has spread. He will start a new treatment on December 22.
- Taylor Burch, friend of Shannah Wagner and the Wagner family, for pregnancy complications.
- Chelsea Skinner 29, family cousin of Koenig's, as she begins new cancer treatment.

*If you have someone or something you would like to have us pray for, please use the tear off sheet on the bulletin and drop in an offering box, or contact the church office at 618-656-4648 by EOD on Wednesdays if possible.*

**Song #1 - Away in a Manger UMH # 217**

Verse 1

Away in a manger no crib for a bed;  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes;  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky;  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay;  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care;  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**Song #2 - O Little Town of Bethlehem  
UMH #330 (v. 1,3, 4)**

Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years,  
Are met in thee tonight.

Verse 3

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to human hearts,  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin;  
Where meek souls will  
Receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

Verse 4

O, holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O, come to us abide with us,  
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

### **Song #3 – See the Star**

See the star  
Pierce the darkness,  
Shining hope to all the earth.  
See the sky  
Blaze with glory,  
Angels praise the savior's birth.

See the joy,  
Shepherds worship,  
Amazed at all that they have seen.  
See the hope,  
Wise men journey,  
Bringing treasures to the King.

See the dawning of the Son,  
Darkness flees for love has come.  
The power of death will be undone:  
Christ is born!

See the trust,  
Humble Mary  
Gazes at her Savior's face.  
See the love  
Freely given,  
Christ reveals the Father's grace.

See the dawning of the Son,  
Darkness flees for love has come.  
The power of death will be undone:  
Christ is born!

God with us in flesh and blood,  
Giving up his throne above,  
Here to save us by his love:  
Christ is born!

Glory in the highest heaven  
All the earth resound;  
Glory in the highest heaven,  
God is with us now!

### **Song #4 – Grace of God With Us**

Wonderful and wise in counsel  
Forever mighty God  
Precious Father, everlasting  
Blessed Prince of Peace

Glory to God in the highest  
Jesus our Savior  
The grace of God with us

The kings of earth rest on your shoulders  
You rule on David's throne  
Your kingdom here is now established  
Christ our Lord of Lords

Glory to God in the highest  
Jesus our Savior  
The grace of God with us

Born that we might know forgiveness  
Born that we should live  
With joy and hope and expectation  
Our King will come again

Glory to God in the highest  
Jesus our Savior  
The grace of God with us

Glory to God in the highest  
Jesus our Savior  
The grace of God with us

## **Song #5 – Doxology UMH #95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

### **Immanuel United Methodist Church**

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