



*Fourth Sunday
of Advent*

Immanuel United Methodist Church

800 North Main Street • Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

December 21, 2025
Fourth Week of Advent—Love

Order of Worship

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Pastor David Roderick

Prelude

Rhonda Grammer

Opening Prayer

David Norris

Song—*O Come, All Ye Faithful* #234

Worship Team

Advent Candle Lighting

David Norris

L: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

L: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Song—*What Child is This* #219

Worship Team

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 7:10-16 NRSVUE

David Norris

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor David Roderick

Song—Messiah

Worship Team

New Testament Reading—Matthew 1:18-25 NRSVUE

David Norris

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Today's Message:

Pastor David Roderick

Song—*Winter Snow*

Worship Team

Prayer of Thanks

Pastor David Roderick

Song—*O Come, All Ye Faithful (Chorus)*

Worship Team

Benediction

Pastor David Roderick

Worship Team:

Emerson Gausmann, Rhonda Grammer

Blessing Bags

We are providing blessing bags this winter, to be available for our friends at Friday Food & Fellowship and anyone in need of essential supplies this winter. A list of suggested items was included in the Weekly Update email if you would like to donate items to be used to fill the bags. You may also fill your own bags and bring to the church. Email kelly@immanuelonmain.org, if you would like a copy of the list emailed to you. There is no deadline as this will be an ongoing ministry through the season.

Friday Food and Fellowship

Our January lunches will be held on January 9th and 23rd from 11:00am—1:00pm. As always, there is no cost but donations are appreciated and accepted as you are able. Our thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to help our community. Please bring a friend and join us for fellowship.

Immanuel Goes to a Hockey Game

Join us this Friday, December 19th at 8:15 PM for Hockey Fights Cancer at the RP Lumber Center. Immanuel will participate in the puck drop before the game to honor those fighting cancer, survivors or loved ones lost to cancer. Those individuals will be honored on the ice during a pre-game ceremony. We hope many of you, families, and friends can join us for this event.

Christmas Eve Services

You're invited to celebrate Christmas Eve with us on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00pm. The service will include candlelight and communion. Services will not be live streamed. We hope you will join us in person!

Christmas Day

If you find yourself without a place to be on Christmas Day, we invite you to join us for lunch. We will be gathering for pizza and fellowship and would love to share a couple of hours of the day with you. Whether you are new, alone, or simply looking for connecting, there is a seat for you. RSVP to Hayden Ellis 618-363-3327.

Inclement Weather Policy

If Church is ever cancelled due to weather, or any unexpected event, it will be posted on our [Facebook](#) page and/or on our [website](#).

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Celebrating Birthdays This Week: 12/23—Errick Cameron; Jill Garbs, 12/24—Mary Ann Goldsmith; David Norris, 12/27—Zinnia Allen; Audrey Floyd

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.

Prayer/Praise Ministry

- Randy Ellis, father of Hayden Ellis, recovering from recent accident.
- Pat Boudreau, sister of Penny May and Dale Fellhauer, awaiting test results.
- Kimberly Buckley, daughter of Linda & Larry Duckworth, needs prayers for emotional support.
- Emily Spitze and family, for the recent passing of her step-father Gary Ramey.
- Prayer of healing for Shelley Duncan, cousin of Sheila Page.
- Brandy Page, daughter of Sheila Page, prayers for continued healing.
- Barb Mindak diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.
- Ann Pugh fighting brain cancer.
- Maryrose Donnelly, mother of Jules Donnelly, who was diagnosed with cancer.
- Carl Streubel, friend of Emily Spitze, who was diagnosed with cancer.

To add someone to the prayer list fill out the bulletin slip or contact the church office.

Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 21 4th Sunday of Advent	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Monday, December 22	7:15 pm	AA
Wednesday, December 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service-Candle Light & Communion
Thursday, December 25	9:00 am	United Women in Faith Holiday Bag Assembly
Sunday, December 28	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship

Today's Worship Assistants:

Liturgist: David Norris

Greeter (s): Emily Spitze

Soundboard: Hayden Ellis

Worship Screens: Tami Masinelli

Next Week's Worship Assistants (12/28):

Guest Speaker: Jules Donnelly

Liturgist: David Roderick

Greeter (s): Larry & Linda Duckworth

Soundboard: Tobias Weaver

Worship Screens: Tami Masinelli



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Immanuel United Methodist Church

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Song #1—O Come, All Ye Faithful #234

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:

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

True God of True God,
Light from light eternal,
Lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
Begotten, not created:

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

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

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

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze
We too will thither bend Our joyful footsteps

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

Song #2—What Child is This #219

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

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

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

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant, king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

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

Song #3—Messiah

Long awaited precious promise,
Son of God and Son of man
Heaven's glory in a manger
Has come to us in Bethlehem

Messiah
Baby born to save us all
Messiah
Messiah
On our knees we fall

All we longed for, all we needed
Shining in this Child's eyes
Hope forever, death defeated
Because of this one only holy night

Messiah
Messiah
Baby born to save us all
Messiah
Messiah
On our knees we fall

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

Long awaited precious promise
Coming back again

Messiah
Messiah
A baby born to save us all
Messiah
Messiah
On our knees we fall
On our knees we fall

Song #4—Winter Snow

You could have come like a mighty storm
With all the strength of a hurricane
You could have come like a forest fire
With the power of heaven in Your flame

But You came like a winter snow
Quiet and soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

You could have swept in like a tidal wave
Or in an ocean to ravish our hearts
You could have come through like a roaring flood
To wipe away the things we've scarred

But You came like a winter snow
You were quiet, you were soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

Your voice wasn't in a bush burning
Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind
It was still, it was small
It was hidden

You came like a winter snow
Quiet and soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below

**Song #5—Reprise: O Come, All Ye Faithful
#234 (Chorus x 2)**

Chorus

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

Chorus

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

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