



## *Immanuel United Methodist Church*

800 North Main Street • Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

December 3, 2023

### **Order of Worship**

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

#### **Call to Worship**

Lisa Allen

L: All creation holds its breath.

**C: The time is almost here.**

L: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

**C: Excitement is all around us.**

L: Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.  
Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

**C: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our Hope.**

#### **Hymn—*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

UM Hymnal #196

Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

*Lyrics Begin on Page 5*

#### **Advent Candle Lighting**

Lisa Allen

#### **Welcome**

Pastor David Roderick

#### **Prayer**

Pastor David Roderick

#### **Song—*Refiner's Fire***

Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

#### **Scripture Reading—Matthew 1:18—23<sup>NRSVUE</sup>**

Lisa Allen

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

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

which means, "God is with us."

**Advent Sermon Series:** Origins  
**Today's Sermon:** "Origins—Matthew"

Pastor Sarah Dierker

**Hymn—***Now Thank We All Our God*

UM Hymnal #102  
Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

## **Holy Communion**

Pastor David Roderick

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
we have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God now and forever.

**Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

### **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer of Thanks**

Pastor David Roderick

### **Benediction**

Pastor David Roderick  
CCLI #2836520

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**Preparation for Worship**—We light one candle today, God, and remember that darkness can never extinguish your light.

**Welcome!** Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year. Welcome to this rich season of worship.

**Special Thanks** to Pastor Sarah Dierker for serving as today's speaker. Sarah serves full time as Chaplain at Alton Memorial Hospital, and worships at Immanuel. May God bless our time of worship together this morning!

**Advent Wreath**—The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy. For many denominations, each of the four weekly candles is purple, the traditional color of royalty. For the third Sunday, some denominations use a pink candle to symbolize joy. The other three candles are purple and represent hope, peace and love, respectively. In the center of the wreath is a large white candle — the Christ candle — which we light on Christmas Eve. White represents the purity of Jesus.

**Angel Tree Ministry/Bailey Family**—All of the gift tags have been claimed from our Blessing Tree! . If you selected an Angel Tree tag, please gift wrap items and return them to church along with the tag by next Sunday, December 10 for delivery. Call Rhonda Grammer with any questions, 618-444-4871. Gifts for the Bailey family are due back on December 22. If you have questions about these tags, contact Teresa at 618-560-9562.

**Sistahs and United Women in Faith** will be hosting a joint Christmas party on Wednesday, December 13 at 6 pm. We will start the evening with appetizers and desserts—please bring your favorite to share. We will have a gift exchange—\$5 suggested cost—be creative. We plan to play Christmas JINGO, have an offering to support gifts for local children, and share some stories and songs. Everyone is welcome to join us for a joyful gathering.

**Christmas Worship Schedule**—The 4th Sunday in Advent will be celebrated on the morning of December 24 at 10:00 am. That evening we will celebrate Christmas Eve with a worship service at 6:00 pm. This service will include candlelight and communion. All are welcome!

**The Next Friday Food & Fellowship** lunch will be served on Friday, December 15 from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm.

**Celebrating Birthdays This Week:** 12/3—Marc Franke; 12/6—Mark Emshousen; 12/9—Katie Akers

**Prayer/Praise Ministry** (+ indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

++ Erika Bailey for her continued cancer battle

++++ Sherry Buhrmester, for strength and healing  
 Brandy Page, health concerns  
 Martie Web, grandmother of Hannah Page, health concerns  
 Praise for God’s protection of Ivy Hallquist  
 Jerry Prott Sr., health issues

**Calendar for the Week**

Sunday, December 3	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
<b>1st Sunday in Advent</b>	10:00 am	Children’s Sunday School
Monday, December 4	10:30 am	Head Start in Fellowship Hall until 6:00 pm
	7:15 pm	AA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 6	12:00 pm	Bridge Club
	6:00 pm	Board of Trustees
	6:00 pm	Rainbow House Adult Group
Thursday, December 7	6:00 pm	Yoga—Beginner/Intermediate Class
	7:00 pm	PFLAG at Rainbow House
Friday, December 8	6:00 pm	Yoga—Restorative
	6:00 pm	Bridge Club in Journey’s Inn Room
Saturday, December 9	8:00 am	Rise & Shine Yoga
Sunday, December 10	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
<b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b>	10:00 am	Children’s Sunday School
	12:00 pm	Young Adult Luncheon

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## **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

*Charles Wesley*

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a Child, and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

## **Refiner's Fire**

*Brian Robert Doerksen*

Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold  
And precious silver  
Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold  
Pure gold  
Refiner's fire  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for you Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for you my master  
Ready to do your will

Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from within  
And make me holy  
Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from my sin  
Deep within  
Refiner's fire  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for you Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for you my master  
Ready to do your will

Refiner's fire  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for you Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for you my master  
Ready to do your will  
And I am ready to do your will  
Make me ready to do your will

## **Now Thank We All Our God**

*Martin Rinkart, Johann Crüger, Felix Mendelssohn*

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices  
Who wondrous things has done  
In whom this world rejoices  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us still in grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given  
The Son, and him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven  
The one eternal God  
Whom earth and heaven adore  
For thus it was, is now  
And shall be evermore

