



# Immanuel United Methodist Church

800 North Main Street • Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

December 17, 2023

## Order of Worship

### Ringing of the Bell

### Call to Worship

David Norris

L: A voice calls out in the wilderness: "prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**C: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for The mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

L: Speak to us Lord. As you promised through your prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, come to us now.

**C: May all the barriers be removed so that we can receive your Word and worship you, In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Hymn—*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

UM Hymnal #220  
Caleb Kelahan, Jennifer Moore  
Lyrics begin on page 4

### Advent Candle-Lighting

David Norris

### Welcome

Pastor David Roderick

### Prayer

Pastor David Roderick

### Prayer Song—*Winter Snow*

Caleb Kelahan, Jennifer Moore

*This is your prayer time. Feel free to come to the altar,  
sit in your pew, sing or not sing. This is your time!*

### Scripture Reading—Mark 1:1-8 <sup>NRSVUE</sup>

David Norris

**1** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. **2** As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, **3** the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,' "

**4** so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Sermon Series**—Origin Stories

**Today's Sermon**—*The Beginning of the Good News*

Pastor David Roderick

**Hymn**—*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UM Hymnal #230  
Caleb Kelahan, Jennifer Moore

**Prayer of Thanks**

Pastor David Roderick

**Benediction**

Pastor David Roderick  
CCLI #2836520

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**Preparation for Worship**—As John the Baptist bore witness to you, Jesus, may my actions and words proclaim that you are the Light of the world.

**Welcome**—The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.

**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!

**Bailey Family Ministry**—If you took a tag to purchase a Christmas gift for the Bailey family, those gifts are due back by this Friday, December 22. If you have questions about the Bailey Family tags, contact Teresa at 618-560-9562.

**Friday Food & Fellowship** lunch will be served next on Friday, January 5.

**From Our Finance Committee:** Immanuel United Methodist Church has been blessed with your prayers, presence and support in 2023. We have done God's work and served God's people. Our monetary contributions have unfortunately fallen short of the commitments we made. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you have been blessed and ways that you can share that blessing. Our Benevolent giving is \$7,000 short for 2023. Contributions will fulfill our commitment to missions around the world. Thank you for your continuing dedication and support.

**Edwardsville Overnight Warming Location!** New this winter, an Overnight Warming Location has been established for people without heat can go when overnight temps are expected to drop to 20° or below. The OWL will be activated from 5:00 pm until 8:30 am at First Baptist Church, 534 St. Louis Street in Edwardsville. Watch [Riverbender.com/weather](http://Riverbender.com/weather) or call 618-465-4545. You can volunteer to help at: [bit.ly/volunteerowl](http://bit.ly/volunteerowl); Make a donation at [bit.ly/supportowl](http://bit.ly/supportowl); Learn more at [facebook.com/overnightwarminglocations](http://facebook.com/overnightwarminglocations) or contact this team of volunteers at [overnightwarminglocations@gmail.com](mailto:overnightwarminglocations@gmail.com). If you have questions, you can also speak to our congregation's representative, Nancy Darnell. Help get the word out!

**Beginner Salsa Coming!**—A salsa class will be taught in our lower level on Thursday evenings, January 4—25, beginning at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$40 for 4 weeks. No partner needed and LGBTQ+ friendly. Questions? Contact Valerie Barber at 618-696-9973.

**Celebrating Birthdays This Week:** 12/18—Sydney Grammer, Donna Hardbeck; 12/19—Sharon Koenig; 12/21—Tony Anderson; 12/23—Jill Garbs

**Celebrating Their Anniversary:** 12/17—Larry & Peggy Worthey

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

- + Family of Marlene Van Camp
- ++ Sherry Buhrmester, for strength and healing  
Jerry Prott Sr., health issues
- ++++ Erika Bailey for her continued cancer battle

**Calendar for the Week**

Sunday, December 17	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
<b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b>	10:00 am	Children's Sunday School
	4:00 pm	Rainbow House Youth
Monday, December 18	7:00 pm	Rainbow House Young Adults
	7:15 pm	AA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 20	12:00 pm	Bridge Club
	7:00 pm	Rainbow House Adult Group
Thursday, December 21	6:00 pm	Yoga
<b>1st day of Winter</b>		
Friday, December 22	6:00 pm	Bridge Club in Journey's Inn Room
		No Yoga
Saturday, December 23	8:00 am	Yoga
Sunday, December 24		
		<b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b>
	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
		No Sunday School
		<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>
	6:00 pm	Worship with Communion & Candlelight

**Today's Worship Assistants:**

Worship Leader: David Norris  
Greeter: Jill Winte  
Soundboard: Matt Lewis  
Worship Slides: Kiffon Lewis

**Next Week's 10 am Worship Assistants:**

Worship Leader: Betty Gengler  
Greeters: Tom & Penny May  
Soundboard: Dustin Franke  
Worship Slides: Sheila Page

**Next Week's 6 pm Worship Assistants**

Worship Leader: Betty Gengler  
Greeter: Jill Winte  
Soundboard: Matt Lewis  
Worship Slides: Kiffon Lewis

**Immanuel United Methodist Church**

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## **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

James Montgomery, Henry T. Smart

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaims Messiah's birth  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds, in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Sages, leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints, before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord, descending  
In His temple shall appear  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

## **Winter Snow**

Audrey Assad

You could've come like a mighty storm  
With all the strength of a hurricane  
You could've 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've swept in like a tidal wave  
Or an ocean to ravish our hearts  
You could've come through like a roaring flood  
To wipe away the things we've scarred

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

Your voice wasn't in a bush burning  
No, Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind  
It was still, it was small  
It was hidden

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

Falling to the earth below  
You came falling from the sky in the night  
To the earth below

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Phillips Brooks, Lewis H. Redner

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

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to Christ the King  
And peace to all on earth

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
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

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!