



Immanuel United Methodist Church

800 North Main Street • Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

December 24, 2023
4th Sunday in Advent
10:00 am

Order of Worship

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Pastor David Roderick

Opening Prayer

Lay Speaker Betty Gengler

Call to Worship

Lay Speaker Betty Gengler

L: Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

C: **Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

L: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

C: **May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen. AMEN.**

Hymn—*Angels We Have Heard on High*

UM Hymnal #238

Hymn—*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

vs 1 & 4 UM Hymnal #218
Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan
Lyrics Begin on Page 4

Advent Candle-Lighting

Lay Speaker Betty Gengler

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Affirmation of Faith

Lay Speaker Betty Gengler

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer

Prayer Hymn—*What Child Is This*

Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

Scripture Reading—John 1:1-18 ^{NRSVUE}

Lay Speaker Betty Gengler

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon Series—Origin Stories

Today's Message—"And the Word Was God"

Pastor David Roderick

Song—*Winter Song*

Rhonda Grammer, Sydney Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

Prayer of Thanks

Pastor David Roderick

Hymn—*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Rhonda Grammer, Caleb Kelahan

Benediction

Pastor David Roderick
CCLI #2836520

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Preparation for Worship—With Mary, "my soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47, NIV).

Welcome—Were we traveling with Joseph and Mary, we'd be nearing Bethlehem now — a relief, especially for the one great with child. So we ponder the solemnity and wonder of this day. Welcome to worship.

Christmas Eve Worship—We will celebrate Christmas Eve tonight with a worship service at 6:00 pm. This service will include candlelight and communion. This service will NOT be streamed. Please join us in person!

From the Finance Committee—Thank you for your continued support of our Benevolence giving. We have received additional contributions this month, but still are short of our annual commitment. There is still time to make a contribution for this year. Please thoughtfully consider supporting local ministries and missions around the world through your Benevolence contributions.

Christmas Decorations will be taken down on Monday, January 8th beginning at 9 am. All persons that may have some time are welcomed to come and help.

Celebrating Birthdays This Week: 12/24—Mary Ann Goldsmith, David Norris; 12/27—Zinnia Allen; 12/28—Mary Lou Grigg, Trish Rader

Today's Worship Assistants:

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

Next Week's Worship Assistants:

Worship Leader: Eloise Allen
 Greeter: Gary & Sharon Koenig
 Soundboard: Keith Housewright
 Worship Screens: Helen Housewright

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

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

Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship No Children's Sunday School
Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	6:00 pm	In-Person Worship with Candlelight & Communion This service will NOT be streamed
Monday, December 25 Christmas Day	7:15 pm	Church Office Closed AA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 27	12:00 pm	Bridge Club
Thursday, December 28	6:00 pm	Yoga
Friday, December 29	6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Yoga Bridge Club in Journey's Inn Room
Saturday, December 30	8:00 am	Yoga
Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve	10:00 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship No Children's Sunday School

Immanuel United Methodist Church

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly songs
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
"Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing
For lo, the days are hastening on
By prophets seen of old
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing

What Child Is This

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 Christians, 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

Winter Song

This is my winter song to you
The storm is coming soon
It rolls in from the sea

My voice; a beacon in the night
My words will be your light
To carry you to me

Is love alive?
Is love alive?
Is love?

They say that things just cannot grow
Beneath the winter snow
Or so I have been told

They say we're buried far
just like a distant star
I simply cannot hold

Is love alive?
Is love alive?
Is love alive?

This is my winter song
December never felt so wrong
Cause you're not where you belong
Inside my arms

I still believe in summer days
The seasons always change
And life will find a way

I'll be your harvester of light
And send it out tonight
So we can start again

Is love alive?
Is love alive?
Is love alive?

This is my winter song
December never felt so wrong
Cause you're not where you belong
Inside my arms

This is my winter song to you
The storm is coming soon
It rolls in from the sea

My love; a beacon in the night
My words will be your light
To carry you to me

Is love alive?

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled

Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come
Offspring of Mary's womb

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth
Born to give us second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!