

# Emmanuel Episcopal Church

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

10:00 p.m.



*Photo: Rachel Boge*

*As we gather before the service begins,  
we encourage people to use the time as a centering for prayer and meditation.*

*We also ask you to silence your phones.*

*If you wish to light a prayer candle, they are located on the right side as you enter the Sanctuary.*

## **9:30-10:00 Prelude**

*Rachel Schmitt, organist*

Brass:	Carol of the Bells	<i>arr. A Frackenpohl</i>
Anthem:	There is Faint Music <i>Beth Hall, piano</i>	<i>Dan Forrest</i>
<b>Hymn #79:</b>	O Little town of Bethlehem	
Piano Solo:	Sussex Carol <i>Beth Hall, piano</i>	<i>arr. Mark Hayes</i>
Anthem:	A maiden most gentle	<i>arr. Andrew Carter</i>
<b>Hymn #89:</b>	It came upon a midnight clear	
Brass:	O Come Emmanuel and I Wonder As I Wander	<i>arr. Don Gillis</i>
Organ Solo:	Chorale Prelude on "Joy to the World"	<i>arr. John S. Dixon</i>

*The congregation is invited to join in singing the carols in bold.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*(stand as you are able)*

**The Processional**

*O come, all ye faithful*

**Hymn #83**

## **The Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (†)

**People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Collect for Purity**

Celebrant: **A**lmighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Collect for Christmas Eve III**

Celebrant: **O** God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus

Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo- ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven- ly King, al-  
 might- y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo- ry. 3. Lord Je- sus Christ,  
 on- ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a- way the sin of the world: have mer- cy on us;  
 5. you are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther: re-  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a- lone are the Ho- ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the  
 Ho- ly Spi- rit, in the glo- ry of  
 God the Fa- ther. A - men.

## **Blessing of the Creche**

Celebrant: O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

V. The Word was made flesh

**R. And dwelt among us.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The crèche is then censed.

## **THE LESSONS**

### **The First Reading**

#### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

**H**ow beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Reading****A Reading from the Hebrews***Hebrews 1:1-12*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John**

*John 1:1-14*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*(seated)*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Conrad Selnick

*A moment of silence is observed after the sermon*

**The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the Church and the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

Father enliven the Church for all your people. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Breathe fresh life into all your people. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Lead us into the ways of justice and peace. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Teach us to love the world and all who live in it. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are presently serving in the military, especially Pierce, Hayden, Nate, Colin, Tyler, and Harry. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are sick, especially Nancy, Bob, Sydney, Barbara and family, Jim, Yolanda, Delbert, Schelley, those participating in Shelter Care Ministry programs, the victims of gun violence, and the people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and Sudan. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have died, especially Denis and Jean. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem**

My Lord has Come

*Will Todd*

*Shepherds, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.*

*Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.*

*His love will hold me. His love will cherish me. Love will cradle me.*

*Lead me to see him, sages, shepherds, and angels; no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.*

**The Offertory Response**

**Hymn #124**

vs. 5

To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.



# LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*(standing)*

## Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: **I**t is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus and Benedictus

Moderato ♩ = 84



*mp*  
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,

5  
*mf*  
God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -

9  
*mp*  
san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the

14  
*f* *rall.*  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: **W**e give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." (†)

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." (†)

Therefore. According to his command, O Father,

**Celebrant and People: We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: **A**nd we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.  
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (†) by the holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Joseph and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

## Lord's Prayer

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Communion:

O Holy Night

*arr. Arthur Frackenpohl*

*Members of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra*

## Communion Hymn:

*The snow lay on the ground*

**Hymn #110**

## Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

## Celebrant and People:

**E**ternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Postcommunion Hymn:

*Silent Night*

Hymn #111

*The congregation kneels as the individual candles are lit and the hymn is sung.*

### Verse 1:

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace  
sleep in heavenly peace.

### Verse 2:

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

### Verse 3:

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## Blessing (†)

**M**ay Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*(standing)*

## Recessional Hymn

*Joy to the world*

Hymn #100

## Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

I Saw Three Ships

*arr. Charles E. Peery*

Emmanuel family, friends, and neighbors,  
so glad you joined us for Christmas Eve worship!  
All are invited to enjoy a sparkling toast in the narthex following the service.

## *Christmas flowers are given by ...*

<u>Name</u>	<u>In Honor, Loving Memory or Thanksgiving of:</u>
John and Jean Frana	Bill and Elnor Geissman & John and Mabel Frana
Mary E. Johnson	Florence and Walter Johnson
Marilynn Freedlund	Morris and parents & Daughters and family
Robert and Elizabeth Parker	Family
Tamara Ross	Esther K. Ohr
Mary G. Johnson	Mark Robert Johnson
Mickey Swart and Family	Mildred Swart, Arza Swart, Molly Swart, and Michael Wilson
Judy Pike	John G. Pike III & Family
Mary Dammann	Jack Dammann
Mary Nielsen	John Nielsen
Phil and Andrew James	Janet James
John and Rosa Birnbaum	Sonny Licon and Jenifer Licon
Valerie Sanders	Peggy Egan
Dan and Gale Degner	Myron and Margaret Jury, Elwyn and Dorothy Degner, Alice Robinson, & Denise Mayer
Rob and Peggy Fry	Our grandparents
Laura Telling	Edward Telling, III and Ray, Lois Ference, and Deb Nelson
Kyla Chapman-Neal & Scott Neal	Our family
Tyler Hillman	Melinda Bowers, Margy Sarver, Joanie Bowers, & Howard Hillman
Ronald and Steven Wanninger	Janet Wanninger
Wayne and Ginny Hatwich	Albert & Lorna Hetzner and Franz & Ruby Hatwich
Stan McGroarty and Trish Rooney	Peg, Joe, & John McGroarty and Pat, Nan, & Don Rooney
Stacey LaRosa and Karen Vilic	Nancy Sauer, Bernice & Paul Wilbur, Christopher Wilbur, Geraldine & Kenneth Ruhling, Erma & Frank Sauer, Susan Cerniglia, Lynda & Joseph LaRosa, and Jerry Jeffers

## Announcements

**There will be an Epiphany pageant between services on Sunday, January 5th in the church proper.** 930 am start time (or soon after). Full congregation welcome! Big deal for the kiddos!

**Grief Group:** meets next on **January 6th at 7 p.m.** Entry at parking lot entrance. All are invited to come.

**Book Club:** No Book Club in January. Join us on **Tuesday, February 14th at 1pm** in the Janet James Room. February's choice is "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. "Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path."

**Overnight Cafe Update:** The Vestry is pleased to announce that Emmanuel and the Jubilee Center are going to partner with Second First Church and assist with their Overnight Cafe program. We are lending the use of the Jubilee Center to house up to 12 women a night during January and February. The program would welcome volunteers in the following ways:

-Volunteer with the Check-In Process from 6:45pm - 8:30pm. A total of two volunteers are needed Monday - Thursday night and four are needed Friday - Sunday night. Volunteers would help register program participants, check bags for any materials restricted from being in the building, and other various tasks.

-Help provide a light dinner: Stews, Casseroles, etc.. Items very easy to cleanup would be welcomed.

Any interested parties should contact Sean Cramer via email at [seancramer81@gmail.com](mailto:seancramer81@gmail.com) or call/text 815-391-4010.

### Assisting in the Liturgy

Crucifer/Chalicer: Tyler Hillman  
Server/Chalicer: Stacey LaRosa  
First Reading: Theresa Sinks  
Second Reading: Mark Baldwin  
Prayers of the People: Maryanne Theyerl  
Altar Guild: All members  
Ushers: Phil James and Andrew James

### Members of the Rockford Symphony Brass:

Mark Baldin, Vicki Hastings: trumpets  
Mark Robinson: french horn  
Brian Rogers: trombone  
Deb Shofner: tuba

# Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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Long-Term Interim Supply.....The Rev. Conrad Selnick  
Choir Director.....Zach Hall  
Organist.....Rachel Schmitt  
Cheryl Rogers ..... Treasurer  
Andrea Mawyer ..... Parish Administrator  
Andrew Jessop ..... Director of Social Media  
Timothy Borden ..... Sexton  
Vestry Members .....Sean Cramer- Sr. Warden, Judy Pike- Jr. Warden,  
Mary G. Johnson- Clerk, Mickey Swart,  
Travis Castrey, Maryanne Theyerl, Jean Frana,  
Ginny Hatwich, Valerie Sanders, & Mark Baldwin

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