



EMMANUEL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 21, 2025

The word Emmanuel means *God With Us*, the extraordinary promise that there is no person, place or context beyond the presence of God. “Emmanuel” also has the same meaning and pronunciation in virtually every language on earth—a beautiful indication that the gospel is for all of us, equally. Regardless of who we are, where we come from, or what we’ve done, we are all freely invited to experience the nearness of God in our life and worship.

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

If you are new to Emmanuel, we’d like to stay in touch!

Fill out our Keeping Connected form to let us know you visited and to receive information about our church. You can use the QR code below, use this link (bit.ly/EPCkeepingconnected), or complete a physical form found at our Welcoming Table in the lobby.

We are so happy that you visited!





ADVENT

Advent means "arrival": a season where we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

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

Hail the heav'n 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 man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
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 a virgin's womb
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
CCLI #7019799

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Brian & Anne Waidmann

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Leader: You have multiplied the nation;

People: You have increased its joy;

~ Isaiah 9:2-3

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

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

Joy to those who long to see thee
Dayspring from on high appear
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth
Go to him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By his life he brings us gladness
Our Redeemer Shepherd Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born Lord of all

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

Arranged by Lynne Denig
CCLI#31999 | Charles Wesley | Clint Wells

OLD TESTAMENT READING AND SERMON TEXT

The public reading of the Scriptures reminds us of the truth that can only be found in God's Word

PSALM 65

Refrain

You answer us, you answer us
In righteousness with your awesome work
God of our salvation, hope of all the earth
Answer us

¹Praise is rightfully yours, God, in Zion; vows to you will be fulfilled. ²All humanity will come to you, the one who hears prayer. ³Iniquities overwhelm me; only you can atone for our rebellions. ⁴How happy is the one you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We will be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple.

Refrain

⁵You answer us in righteousness, with awe-inspiring works, God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the distant seas. ⁶You establish the mountains by your power; you are robed with strength. ⁷You silence the roar of the seas, the roar of their waves, and the tumult of the nations. ⁸Those who live far away are awed by your signs; you make east and west shout for joy.

Refrain

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly, enriching it greatly. God's stream is filled with water, for you prepare the earth in this way, providing people with grain. ¹⁰You soften it with showers and bless its growth, soaking its furrows and leveling its ridges. ¹¹You crown the year with your goodness; your carts overflow with plenty. ¹²The wilderness pastures overflow, and the hills are robed with joy. ¹³The pastures are clothed with flocks and the valleys covered with grain. They shout in triumph; indeed, they sing.

Refrain

Arranged by Lynne Denig and Stephen Bates

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

GREETING AND PROCESSIONAL

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. K-3rd will meet their teacher in the lobby. Preschoolers and 4th-5th graders will head directly to their classroom upstairs. First-time visitors, please visit the Children's Ministry Table for more information.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Give us the grace to live out your promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERMON

Sermons at Emmanuel encourage us to depend on the finished work of Christ rather than self-justification.

GOD OF BLESSINGS

REV. YOUNG LEE

OFFERING

Offering is a grateful acknowledgement of trust and worship of our God who owns everything and withholds nothing.

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU (PSALM 130)

Out of the depths I cry to You
In darkest places I will call
Incline Your ear to me anew
And hear my cry for mercy Lord

Were You to count my sinful ways
How could I come before Your throne
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze
I stand redeemed by grace alone

Chorus
I will wait for You I will wait for You
On Your word I will rely
I will wait for You surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied

So put Your hope in God alone
Take courage in His power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave

His steadfast love has made a way
And God Himself has paid the price
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice

I will wait for You I will wait for You
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for You surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight

Jordan Kauflin | Keith Getty | Matthew Merker | Stuart Townend
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CONFESSION OF SIN

Since we are forgiven in Christ, confession is an honest word of grace and not an exercise in shame.

From delusion to truth and into your righteous way: Lead us, Father God. From darkness to light and into your gracious will: Lead us, savior Christ. From death to immortality and into your joyful presence: Lead us, powerful Spirit. Triune God, savior and strength of us all: It is you we worship and adore.

~A prayer from the Andhra Christian Theological College in Hyderabad, India

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are forgiven in Christ and our assurance is based on God's promises.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David..."

~Luke 1:69-70

COMMUNION

The Lord's table is open to all who have faith in Jesus and have joined themselves to the visible body of Christ. (Gluten free wafers are available.)

REVELATION SONG

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah

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BENEDICTION

Benediction means "good word" and is a pronouncement of grace and blessing.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

CCLI #3184477

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service - December 24

Join us for a Christmas Eve Service at Rivendell from 5-6 PM. Childcare will not be provided, and we welcome all ages to join in the worship service.

Call for Christmas Guests - December 25

You are invited to celebrate Christmas dinner with your Emmanuel church family! Some folks have extra room at their table and would like for you to join them for their Christmas meal. If you would enjoy celebrating with others from church, contact Bonnie to be connected (bblakeney@emmanuelarlington.org).

Testimony Sharing Service - January 4

At the beginning of every new year, we set aside time during the service to share testimonies (stories) of God's work in our lives. As you reflect on the past year, consider sharing a short version of your story with our church family during this service.

Women's Epiphany Brunch - January 10

Join the women of Emmanuel to celebrate Epiphany on Saturday morning, January 10. Sign up on Church Center if you plan to attend.

Malaria Matters: Combating a Global Health Challenge - January 11

As part of our series on vocation, we will learn about health and human services during the service and focus on the topic of malaria after church in a seminar led by Dr. Ian Drobish. Plan to join us to learn more about God's glory through Ian's work in this field.

Singing at the Lees' - January 17

Calling all singers! Stephen Bates, Eleanore Lee, and Christina Rawls invite you to a vocalists' get-together/jam session at 7:30pm at the Lees' home. This will be an environment perfect for both new and experienced singers, with easy to pick up songs as well as opportunities for four-part harmony. Contact Stephen at sbates@emmanuelarlington.org if you're interested.