

IMMANUEL

GOD

With Us



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

SONG

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD
Chris Rice

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

- M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.
- C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**
- M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your everseeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.
- C: Bless us with a faith that will ponder and treasure all these things in our hearts.**
- M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.
- C: “For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord.” May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**
- M: We remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.
- C: Glory to God in the highest!**
- M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.
- C: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Amen.**

IMMANUEL'S PROPHECY IS FULFILLED

The First Lesson: Matthew 1:8-25

⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[4]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[5] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[6] because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”^[7] (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #327 (1,4) OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel*

IMMANUEL IS MADE KNOWN

The Second Lesson: Mark 1:1-3; John 1:9-14,18

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — ³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #344 (1-2) 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 oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

IMMANUEL IS PLACED IN A MANGER

The Third Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

M: “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

C: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

M: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

CHOIR

WERE YOU THERE ON THAT CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Natalie Sleeth

*Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
when the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?*

*Did you see, did you see how they hailed him King,
with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed, as they praised him aloud at his birth?*

*Did you hear how the choir of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?*

*Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,
the salvation of the world begun?
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?*

IMMANUEL IS ANNOUNCED BY ANGELS

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

- M: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,
- C: **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**
- M: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- C: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”**
- M: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
- C: **“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**
- M: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

HYMN

CW RED #66 (1,3-4) O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*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.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
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;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!*

IMMANUEL IS WITH US

Silent Night Interlude: Isaiah 9:6

At this time the ushers will come forward to pass out the candles. The Christ Candle in the middle of the Advent Wreath will act as our source of light. As the ushers proceed down the center aisle, tip your unlit candle towards the lighted one and pass the flame to your neighbor, keeping your lighted candle held vertically at all times.

No offering will be taken during the service this evening so as to not diminish the focus on our Heavenly Father's supreme Gift to us. An offering plate is found in the narthex where you may leave a gift in response to God's gift of Himself.

HYMN CW21 BLUE #337 GERMAN VS.1; ENGLISH 1-3 STILLE NACHT/SILENT NIGHT

1.) Stille nacht! Heilige nacht!

**Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in Himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in Himmlischer Ruh!**

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.**

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!**

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.**