

***Gospel Verse: “From Heaven Above” — Verses 1-3**

LBW #51

1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your

news to ev -’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of your
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your

joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

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***Christmas Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

***Hymn: “From Heaven Above” — Verses 6, 8, 12**

LBW #51

6. How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go,
To see what God for us has done, In sending us His own dear Son.

8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery, That You might share Your joy with me.

12. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart, For You to dwell within my heart.

Children’s Message: “Immanuel or Emmanuel?”

“God With Us!”

Hymn: “Once in Royal David’s City”

WOV #643

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid’s cit - y, Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear a
and

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

5. Not in that poor, lowly stable, With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

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Sermon: “Jesus: The Gift of Hope!”

Pastor Dave Steffenson

***Hymn of the Day: “Carol at the Manger” (WOV #638)**

see insert

***Confession of Faith: “Apostles’ Creed”**

LBW Page 85

***The Prayers:** each petition ends with, “Lord in your mercy,” ... and the congregation responds with, “**Hear our prayer.**”

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Word & Sacrament is a blessing to you. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever we are praising, proclaiming and practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the Birth of our Lord keep hope in our hearts always!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.

Discipleship Covenants for 2018 are available for signing! Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal. Sixty-Two Covenants were signed in 2017. Thanks for walking the walk with Jesus and making Emmanuel your church home. We have received 51 signed covenants so far.

Year-End Gifts and Offerings: Emmanuel is requesting that members make year-end contributions to our church mission plan budget, and designated gifts, by December 25. With New Year's Day falling on Monday this year, offerings received in worship on December 30 will not be deposited until January 2, 2018. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Saturday School & G.I.F.T. — Attention Saturday School Families – We will not meet for Saturday School on Dec. 30th. There will also be no G.I.F.T. that evening. But don't forget to bring your bells and enjoy the Bell Ringing Service.

Communication Cards/Offering Envelopes: The offering envelope, in your bulletin is also being used as visitor and communication card. If you are visiting with us, please know that your presence is your gift to us. We have a very generous congregation & ask only that you share your contact information with us. Members and visitors may use the communication envelopes to indicate a desire for a pastoral visit, a prayer concern, or changes in contact information. Envelopes may be placed in the offering basket. Thanks.

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight: THANKS!

Organist: Rev. Scott Schilbe

Instrumentalists: Warren Bandel (trumpet); Annette Engelmann (Flute); Jennifer Schilbe (Violin); Jay Kurtz (Clarinet); Timothy Schilbe (Clarinet); & Benjamin Schilbe (Piano)

Scripture Reader, Prayers & Communion Server: Lee Pearce

Ushers: Larry & Deb Vomhof

Sound: Don Holtan

Acolyte: Elijah Matzke

Set-up: Julie Steffenson

Take-down: Janet Sunde and friends

The Emmanuel Weekly

**Saturday, Dec. 24, 2017
Christmas Eve – 9pm**

**"Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing
Emmanuel—God with us—in daily life!"**

THANKS!

We offer thanks to God for all of our gifted musicians who have graciously shared their time and talents with us and the Christ Child this night. May God keep the hope of Christmas in our hearts always!

Christmas Eve—December 24 (9pm) Service of Carols, Communion and Candlelight with pipe organ & many instrumentalists.
Extended Prelude begins at 8:40pm.

Bell Ringing Service: Saturday, Dec. 30 at 6pm. **Bring those bells!** We will be singing lots of Christmas Carols as we celebrate the *Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Emmanuel's goal for this year's Red Kettle fundraiser was 62 hours! Thanks to everyone who rang bells! We logged over 80 hours!

The December Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter & Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December—January; & a Christmas Ornament.



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Sun, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship at 9pm with Prelude at 8:40pm
- Monday, December 25 Nativity of our Lord! **Merry Christmas!**
- Tues, Dec. 26 – Men's Bible Study (8am); Text Study (10:30am)
- Pastor Dave on Vacation December 26-29, 31
- Sat, Dec. 30 – **NO G.I.F.T. & Saturday School**; Bell Ringing Worship: "Twelve Days of Christmas" at 6pm Bring & Ring those Bells.
- Monday, January 1—**Happy New Year!**

Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14**Lee Pearce**

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: 11 “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” 13 And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Lesson: I John 4:7-16**Lee Pearce**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**Pastor Dave**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Christmas Eve Prayers:**Lee Pearce**

A: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Brief silence

A: Lord God Almighty, we come before You on this most holy night in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Give to Your Church faithful servants to proclaim the good tidings of His birth, and give to Your people willing ears to hear & believe in the Gift of Immanuel. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers.

A: In the birth of Your Son, You have signaled the beginning of a new creation; while we still live in a world wracked by the ravages of sin, we know that the final victory is Yours. Watch over and keep safe all whose vocations make them absent from their families this evening so that they can look out for the well-being of our families. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers.

A: In the birth of Your Son, You have visited & redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death. Let Your presence be a comfort to them, and give them perseverance until that time You grant healing, relief, deliverance & peace. We name before you (**NAMES**). Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers.

A: In the birth of Your Son, You have made a new family out of all humanity. Teach us how to love one another as you love us. Grant that we may share Jesus, the gift of hope, with all people. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers.

A: In the birth of Your Son, You have called people of all times and places into the Body of Christ that is the Church. We give You thanks for all the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past and are now with You. Give us a sure confidence in Your promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us at last together with them into Your presence at the full coming of Your Kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers.

P: Into Your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.