

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

C: And also with you. (Virtually Sharing God's Peace)

CAROL: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" LBW #54 (Insert)

DAY TWELVE: EVE OF EPIPHANY January 5

Lesson: Matthew 2:1

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[The Magi traveled to find the Christ. In some places it is the tradition to have a festive celebration in honor of the Wise Men's visit. Partygoers move progressively, following a star to friends' homes, receiving hospitality at each house. The evening ends with a carol singing, remembering the journey of the Three Kings.]

CAROL: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" WOV #646 (Insert)

DAY THIRTEEN: EPIPHANY January 6

Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

Offering: (No passing of baskets; offerings may be placed in the basket located by the church entrance as one leaves; offerings of support may also be given electronically or sent via U.S. mail. Thanks for supporting the ministry of Emmanuel.)

Closing Prayers:

CLOSING CAROL: "The Twelve Days of Christmas" ... Vs. 12 only—Insert

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL (RING BELLS)

POSTLUDE

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Worship 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 Word made flesh, born of Mary, keep Christmas in our hearts and homes always! Merry Christmas!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



**Worship—Eve
of Christmas I
Dec. 26, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

Christmas: Bell-Ringing Service

"Celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas"

An asterisk () indicates that the congregation is invited to stand during the Worship Service. As prelude music is played, we invite worshippers to center their hearts and minds in the living Presence of Jesus. "Be Still and Know That I am God! ... The LORD of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."—Ps. 46:10-11.*

Prelude: Lighting of Christmas Candles — "Silent Night"

Welcome/Announcements:

Tonight's Service is very informal. Keeping the 12 Days started back in 567 A.D.; the purpose of which was to allow God's people more time to reflect upon and celebrate the gift of the Incarnation (God with us in the flesh). Some start counting THE DAYS on Dec. 25, others start on Dec. 26 & run through Epiphany (the arrival of the Magi). So we have a dozen, or perhaps a baker's dozen of DAYS. We welcome your bells! You are invited to ring your bell at any time that the Spirit moves you, but especially after the reading of Scripture. **After the reading of Scripture, the Reader will say, "This is the Word of the Lord," and the response from you, along with the ringing of the bells, is "Thanks be to God."**

***OPENING CAROL: "The Twelve Days of Christmas" — Insert**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,

C: Because of all that the Lord has done for us, according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

P: He will become our Savior, His presence will save us in our distress.

C: In His love and in His pity He will redeem us, and we will sing His praises! Isaiah 63:7 (adapted)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE (Congregation seated)

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

DAY ONE: CHRISTMAS DAY December 25

Lesson: Luke 2:7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[Christmas is a joyous proclamation of God's coming in the form of humanity – the human, Jesus – Emmanuel, God With Us, bringing power & love. Christmas is a feast, a Mass (Christ-Mass), celebrating the birth of Jesus. Let us reclaim these days, proclaiming God's presence, our unity in Christ, & our response to God's good news.]

CAROL: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" LBW #55 (Insert)

DAY TWO: SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY December 26

Lesson: Acts 6:1-15, 7:54-60

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[The early church dedicated the second day of Christmas to Stephen, the first martyr, patron saint of deacons and diaconal ministers, and for those who serve in the faith. As the first martyr, Stephen is given the most honorable day, right next to Christmas. It is called Boxing Day in England – it would be easy to assume that people fight each other – but this is not so. What it really means is that food from the Feast is boxed up to go out into the community, to the poor – food, not fighting.]

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Good King Wenceslas"

[If you listen closely to the words of this song, you will learn the story of a good man who lived out his faith by taking care of the

CAROL: "What Child is This" LBW #40 (Insert)

*DAY NINE: INCARNATION January 2

your bell at any time that the Spirit moves you, but especially after the reading of Scripture. **After the reading of Scripture, the Reader will say, "This is the Word of the Lord," and the response from you, along with the ringing of the bells, is "Thanks be to God."**

Lesson: John 1:14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[Words can kill, and words can make alive. Words have power. In the Beginning, God said, "Let there be..." God spoke creation into existence. When asked why Jesus was called THE WORD, and eight-year-old girl gave this response: "Because Jesus is all God wanted to say to us!"]

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LBW #41 (Insert)

*DAY TEN: BAPTISM January 3

Lesson: John 1:29-36

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[St. John, in his Gospel, refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Baptism is a covenant, a promise, a sacrament. There's a gospel song on a Christmas CD called, "Mary Had a Little Lamb." It is the same song that we learned as children, but the last line is "Mary had a little lamb and Jesus was His name."]

CAROL: "When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known" LBW #85 (Insert)

*DAY ELEVEN: PEACE January 4 (Isaiah 60:1, 3)

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

C: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

P: Nations shall come to your light

C: And sovereigns to the Brightness of your rising.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. Ring bells.

poor as Jesus directs us to do. Good King Wenceslas, a Bohemian prince born in A.D. 903, was known for his charity to the poor. On Saint Stephen's Day, we remember those who serve; and we serve others too in the name of JESUS.]

DAY THREE: SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST
December 27

Lesson: John 1:1-5, 21:20-25

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[John's Gospel tells the story of the Incarnation (God in flesh made manifest). The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us full of grace and truth. Jesus is crucified and raised from the dead for the forgiveness of our sins. This is how God loves the world: God gives His only Son. St. John was a bishop in the early church, in Ephesus, which is in present-day Turkey. John was always calling on Christians to "love one another".]

CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LBW #60 (Insert)

DAY FOUR: THE HOLY INNOCENTS December 28

Lesson: Matthew 2:13-18

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[We remember that Herod was a bloodthirsty, horrid person. He murdered members of his own family, killing 3 of his sons. He felt that his throne was threatened, & he had no scruples in murdering the innocent children of Bethlehem to protect that throne. We read this story in the celebration of the twelve days, because there will always be the innocent, the victims. We should remember them and pray for them.]

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Oh, Sleep Now, Holy Baby" (WOV #639)

DAY FIVE: NATIVITY December 29

Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[This is a familiar picture. Animals were present at Christmas time. They are a favorite part of every nativity scene – the sheep, the cattle, the donkey, and the camels. This is a reminder of God's goodness in creation, and it is used to illustrate peace and living together unthreatened.]

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" LBW #71 (Insert)

DAY SIX: THE HOLY FAMILY December 30

Lesson: Luke 2:25-40

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[Anna & Simeon waited on the LORD. Patiently, they longed for the fulfillment of promise. In the Christmas Child, in the dedication of Jesus, they saw the redemption of Israel. They sang their Christmas carols to the praise of God.]

GIFT OF MUSIC: "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" (LBW #339)

DAY SEVEN: WATCH NIGHT December 31

Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[People of faith wait and watch for new beginnings to arrive. For everything there is a Season. During the Christmas Season we remember Christ's presence among the poor and we meet our Lord in the needs of our neighbors.]

CAROL: "The Bells of Christmas " LBW #62 (Insert)

DAY EIGHT: MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD Jan. 1

Lesson: Luke 2:16-21

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. (Ring bells)

[The first day of the year is given to Mary, the mother of Jesus, as an important person in our Christmas heritage. We consider the importance of Mary in the life of Jesus. Our passage speaks of the shepherds' visit to Mary, and of her careful pondering of the things they proclaimed. Mary listened. She pondered. She obeyed. God's child is now Mary's child.]

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” LBW #41

1. 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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

“When Christ’s Appearing Was Made Known” LBW #85

1. When Christ's appearing was made known,
King Herod trembled for his throne;
But He Who offers heavenly birth
Sought not the kingdom of this earth.
2. Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heavenly Lamb in meekness stood,
That He, to Whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.
3. All glory, Jesus, be to Thee
For this Thy glad epiphany:
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” LBW #54

It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” WOV #646

1. We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star:
*O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy Perfect Light*
2. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia Earth to heav’n replies: *O Star of wonder, ...*



SONG SHEET

***OPENING CAROL:** “The Twelve Days of Christmas”

On the First day of Christmas
my true love gave to me, A
Partridge in a Pear Tree.
(Jesus Christ on the cross)

On the Second day of Christmas
my true love gave to me
Two Turtle Doves and a
partridge in a pear tree.

On the Third day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Three French Hens, two turtle doves, & a partridge
in a pear tree.

On the Fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Four Calling Birds...

On the Fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Five Golden Rings...

On the Sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Six Geese a laying...

On the Seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to
me Seven Swans a swimming...

On the Eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Eight Maids a milking...

On the Ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Nine Ladies dancing...

On the Tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Ten Lords a leaping...

On the Eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to
me Eleven Pipers piping...

On the Twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to
me Twelve Drummers drumming...

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” LBW #55

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LBW #60

1. 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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! **[Refrain]**

- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n 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. **[Refrain]**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” LBW #71

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **[Refrain]**

“The Bells of Christmas ” LBW #62

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more;
The heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
With new year gifts of peace, good will.
2. O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
Great David's Son, great David's Lord.

“What Child is This” LBW #40

1. 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!

During the 12 Days of Christmas the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the Light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, & in the Lord's Supper. We go forth to be bearers of Light as we proclaim this good news of the Incarnation to all the ends of the earth.

Membership Covenants! Discipleship Covenants are available for servants of Emmanuel wishing to sign or renew their membership covenant for the new year 2021. A Covenant Renewal Service will take place on Jan. 23 at our 6pm Worship Service. Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal; a yearly commitment to the walk of discipleship in the footsteps of Jesus. Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, & live and give generously. Those signing an Emmanuel Discipleship Covenant may have membership in another congregation as well. Questions? Contact Pastor Dave Steffenson! 45 Covenants received thus far!

Year-End Gifts & Offerings: Members wishing to give a year-end contribution to the 2020 Emmanuel Budget or an Emmanuel Designated Gift, will need to do so no later than Monday, Dec. 28. All gifts must be received by Emmanuel **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 28!** Thanks for your attention to this matter! — Judy Caudill, Emmanuel Church Treasurer.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting—Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021. This Year's Emmanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday Jan. 30 immediately following evening worship. The Annual Report will be distributed one week prior to the Mtg.

Worship Servants Tonight: Thanks!

Pianist: MarJean Damerval

Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Sound: Don Holtan

Sanitizing Lee & Judy Pearce

Set-up and Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Peg Holtan

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
Contact Information: 3819—18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN
Phone: 507-206-3048 www.emmanuelofrochester.org

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020
Christmas I — 6 pm

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

The ADVENT of our LORD

This year's Advent & Christmas theme is: **“The WORD Made Flesh”**. Each week, during the Season of Advent, we are celebrating God's Gift of the Incarnation! In the Flesh of Jesus, we have a down-to-earth God who saves us!

Christmas Keepsake Ornament

Each year, Emmanuel Lutheran Church celebrates the Season of Christmas with a commemorative ornament. This year, in celebration of the Incarnation, our ornament reminds us of God's coming down to us in a “baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” There is one ornament per household.

Children's Worship Bags

Worship Bags are available for kids each week. We hope children enjoy these resources during worship. Please take the bags home with you.

The January 2021 Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter & Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December 2020—January 2021.



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, December 26 “Bell Ringing—12 Days of Christmas” In-Person & Virtual Worship @6pm
- Pastor Dave is on Vacation from Dec. 27–Jan. 2, 2021
- Saturday, January 2 Christmas II Worship @ 6pm with Pulpit Supply: Pastor Waldemar Gies
- Tues, Jan. 5 @ 6pm Burning of the Greens on the Church Land
- Wednesday, Jan. 6 Men's in-person Bible Study at 11am
- Friday, Jan. 8 — Zoom Council Mtg. at 1pm

• **Acts 4:31**
The Church Prayed!