

\*Benediction

P: May Jesus, the Miracle of Christmas, fill you with all joy & peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may celebrate the birth of Christ, and share His saving love with all the world. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

**LBW #70**

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**
2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**
3. Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! Celebrate the miracle of Christmas!

C: **Jesus is my miracle! Thanks be to God!**

Postlude by Mary Ann Groven

**WORSHIP SERVANTS Today: THANKS!**

Pianist: Mary Ann Groven

Scripture Reader, Prayers & Assisting Minister: Kim Starr

Sound/Video Recording: Don Holtan

Set-up: Julie Steffenson

Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Peg Holtan

**Thanks** for worshipping 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 & marked with the cross of Christ forever we are praising, proclaiming & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ keep faith and hope and love in our hearts always!

**Visit us at:** [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org).



**Worship  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021  
2:00 p.m.**

**Lutheran Book of Worship — “The Miracle of Christmas”**

*\* indicates stand as you are able*

**Prelude by Mary Ann Groven**

**The First Noel - Nora Serr**

Welcome/Announcements:

**\*Invocation:** Celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, we worship as we live, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Prayer:** God of majesty, on this holy night your light and life broke into the darkness of our human condition. Grant that your light and life will continue to shine through us into a dark and weary world until that time when your glory reigns forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Lighting of Candles Candles**

**Sing: Tune of “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” — LBW #69**

1. *The Incarnation, mystery, The WORD made flesh for me;  
The miracle of Christmas is, The gift of Calvary.*
2. *Before the altar of our Lord, we shall confess and see;  
Forgiveness is the grace of God, that sets the sinner free.*

**\*Confession & Forgiveness:**

P: Almighty 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence may be kept.*) Most merciful Father, We confess that we walk in the darkness of sin and not in the light of your love. Sometimes we treat the priceless gift of your Son as an afterthought. And often we do not give the gift of forgiveness, mercy, and care to those who need them from us. Lead us into the light of your healing, forgiveness, and love, and restore to us the joy proclaimed by angels and shepherds at your Son's birth among us.

**C: Amen.**

P: Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy: For unto you is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord. His name is Jesus, for he saves us from our sins. He is called Emmanuel, for he is God with us. For his sake, his Father forgives and blesses you, calls you his children, and bestows his Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen, & sanctify you in all your words and deeds.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Hymn: "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]**

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, & the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

The Prayers: (Each petition ends with "Lord in your mercy," to which God's people reply, "**Hear our prayer.**")

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 God's ministry.)

Gift of Music: O Holy Night

\*The Great Thanksgiving—Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas

\*Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

**Invitation & Distribution:** *Holy Communion is the Lord's Supper for the Lord's People: "All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body & Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, & believe that Jesus Christ, crucified & risen, is truly present in, with & under the forms of bread & wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation." With repentant hearts, we receive the body & blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Consecrated grape juice and gluten-free wafers & are available. When instructed, receive the body & blood of Jesus in the pre-filled containers.*

\*Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh and born of Mary, keep the miracle of Christmas always in your heart.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Post-Communion Cantic: "Silent Night"**

*Lighting of individual candles and dimming of lights*

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, heav'nly 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.

given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth & forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness & worldly passions, & to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness & to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: “Advent is Here” tune of “Earth & All Stars” — LBW #558

*Advent is here, waiting continues! Jesus our Savior is always Good News!  
Open our ears, help us to listen! Jesus a lamp and a light to our feet!  
Christmas is coming and we shall rejoice! Give God the glory, Alleluia!*

\*Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd. Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for

all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Gospel Hymn: “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**LBW #45**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!

Glory to God, in the highest: **[Refrain]**

Children’s Message: “It’s a Miracle”

Pastor Dave Steffenson

Sermon: “JESUS is The Miracle of Christmas”

Pastor Dave Steffenson

**\*Hymn of the Day: “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!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

# The Emmanuel Weekly

**2022 Membership Covenants!** Discipleship Covenants are available for servants of Emmanuel wishing to sign or renew their membership covenant for the new year 2022. A Covenant Renewal Service will take place on January 22 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 Steffenson! 40 Discipleship Covenants have already been signed and submitted. Thank you!

**Nominating Committee:** Members of Emmanuel are to prayerfully consider ways they can serve Christ and put their discipleship into practice during the year 2022. The following servants have agreed to serve in 2022:

- Don Wanek, Darald Bothun and Jeff Patzke—2-year Council Terms
- Auditing Committee: Jenna Serr (3 years), Julie Edwards (2 years), and Rachel Woodford (1 year)
- Nominating Committee: Leitha Bothun, Lee Pearce, Julie Steffenson and ?
- Voting Delegates and alternates to Iowa Mission District Convocation and NALC Convocation: Pending??

**Men's Bible Study:** Men of Emmanuel Lutheran meet on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am via email & study the Bible Readings for the upcoming weekend. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like the study notes emailed to you. In-person study will be offered on **Wednesdays, January 5, 12 & 19 at 11am.** Location: Oasis Church. Bring a Bible, & a friend.

**Women's Bible Study!** A Bible Study on “Women of the Bible” continues on Wednesdays at 1pm at the home of Judy Pearce with Leitha Bothun as the study leader. Women will meet on **Wednesdays, January 12 & 26, 2022.** Contact Judy or Leitha with questions.

**Snow Removal:** Emmanuel is responsible for removal of snow on the Oasis sidewalks, one day each week during the winter months. Mondays are our day of choice. Larry Vomhof and his sons will spearhead this work. Volunteers are needed to assist with snow removal. Contact Larry if you would like to assist with this ministry! Thanks.

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2021**  
**Christmas Eve – 2pm**

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

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

Welcome to Worship. Thanks for joining us in the celebration of our Lord's Incarnation. Jesus is the Miracle of Christmas. He is our righteousness and our salvation. Daily, He is born in us, so that we might share His saving presence with others.

### **Bell Ringing Service**

Sat, Jan. 1, 2021 at 6pm. **Bring those bells!** We will be singing lots of Christmas Carols as we celebrate the *Twelve Days of Christmas* and welcome the gift of a New Year.

### **Year-End Gifts & Offerings**

Anyone desiring to give a year-end contribution to the 2021 Emmanuel Budget, or a Designated Gift, should do so by Dec. 27. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

**The January 2022 Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter and Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December—January; & a 2021 Christmas Ornament.**



### **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- Friday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Worship at 2pm with Communion
- Saturday, December 25  
Nativity of our Lord at 6pm!  
**Merry Christmas!**

**Christmas Keepsake Ornament! Get yours today! One per household.**

- Pastor Dave on Vacation  
December 26-January 3.
- Sat, Jan. 1 — Christmas I  
Worship (6pm) with Bell Ringing Worship—12 Days of Christmas. Bring a bell. Make some noise for Jesus!

• **Acts 4:31**  
**The Church Prayed!**