

MAKE A WAY

Come Son of God and make us new
Light of the world our hearts renew
Hope in our inner darkness lies
Oh healing sun of justice rise

Come promised since our Eden's end
Child of the woman come defend
Long have we felt the serpent's sting
Come strike his head and mercy bring

Chorus:

O make a way open wide the gates
O make a way through the sorrow and the pain
O make a way though the road is dark and winding
O come come

Come son of man to show the way
O through the tears may we see the day
So long did we in darkness dwell
Come down to break the chains of hell

Isaac Wardell | Kate Bluett | Paul Zach
CCLI Song #7186094

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT READING

We gather in response to God's gracious invitation, not because worship earns favor with him.

Leader: *We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.*

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be the ruler in Israel, whose coming is from old, from ancient days."

People: Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

Leader: And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

People: And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

~Micah 5:1-5

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the Babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

Infant holy, infant lowly
Heaven's highest love came down,
For the poor, You left your glory
And You Laid aside-your crown.
Weak and helpless, here you slumber
In a stable with Your mother
As the shepherds gather round.
Do they know You've left your crown?

Kate Bluett | Isaac Wardell | Piotrowi Skardze

OLD TESTAMENT READING

¹⁹“Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city ²⁰Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. ²¹Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. ²²Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. ²³All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise,” but it was far from me. ²⁴That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out? ²⁵I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. ²⁶And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. ²⁷Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—²⁸which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. ²⁹See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”

~Ecclesiastes 7:19-29

Leader: This is the word of God, absolutely true, and given to us in love.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

GREETING

DOXOLOGY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING

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

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

~Philippians 2:1-11

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

The sermon is a time to hear God's Word explained and applied. Sermons at Emmanuel encourage us to depend on the finished work of Christ rather than self-reliance or self-justification.

COUNT ONE ANOTHER MORE SIGNIFICANT

REV. SCOTT SEATON

OFFERING

The offering is our grateful acknowledgement of trust and worship of the God who owns everything and withholds nothing. If you give online, consider contributing a dollar or loose change as a tangible act of worship.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing worldly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God
To earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

King of kings yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away

At His feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the Presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia alleluia alleluia
Lord Most High

Fernando Ortega | Gerard Moultrie
CCLI Song #6227463

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

~The Agnus Dei

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are forgiven in Christ! Using the words of Scripture reinforce that our assurance is based on God's declaration and promises.

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

~1 Corinthians 5:7-8

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's table, not Emmanuel's, and is open to all who have a sincere faith in Jesus and have joined themselves to the visible body of Christ. The Lord's Supper isn't simply a memorial, but is also a time of real grace imparted and received in union with God.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

We who walk in darkness deep
Now see the light of morning
The mighty God the Prince of Peace
A child to us is born

Chorus:

Behold the Lamb of God
Who takes away our sin
Behold the Lamb of God
The life and light of men
Behold the Lamb of God
Who died and rose again
Behold the Lamb of God
Who comes to take away our sin

Wand'ers in the wilderness
Now hear a voice is crying
Prepare the way make straight the paths
Your king has come to die

Bridge:

Son of God (Emmanuel)
Son of Man (We praise you)
Behold the Lamb, The hope of man, Behold the Lamb

Andrew Peterson | Laura Story
CCLI Song #4618782

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Chorus:

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

John W. Work Jr.
CCLI Song #29080

BENEDICTION

Benediction literally means "good word." It is a pronouncement of grace and blessing as we are sent, that we would live out the Christian life solely because God is with us.

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. ~Numbers 6:24-26

After the service, a male and female leader of Emmanuel will be available by the stage to pray for any concerns you have.

Unless noted, all Scripture is English Standard Version (ESV).

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination committed to the historic truths of Scripture & the relevance of the gospel in everyday life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keeping Connected

If you're new to Emmanuel, we'd like to stay in touch, so please fill out a Keeping Connected card through our church app. Click "Get Connected" and then "Get Connected".

Courtyard Caroling - This Sunday

This Sunday, stop by the courtyard after service to listen to some caroling from the Children's Ministry while enjoying hot chocolate and snacks!

Support Emmanuel Partners - This Sunday

Please stop by the Gift Tree in the church lobby after service to donate to our partners: Restoration Immigration Legal Aid, Arlington Bridge Builders, Assist Pregnancy Center, and Project Belong!

Christmas Eve Service - December 24

Everyone is welcome to attend Emmanuel's Christmas Eve service on December 24 at Rivendell from 5-6pm, with nursery provided!

No Online Streaming for Christmas Eve or the December 26th Service

We will be taking a break from streaming the service online on Christmas Eve, December 24th and December 26th. If you are traveling, we encourage you to attend a church service in your area! We will return to streaming on January 2nd.

December Mercy Offering

Throughout the month of December, we will collect a Mercy Offering for Restoration Immigration Legal Aid (RILA). Please designate mercy offerings to this partner when giving on the Emmanuel App or [online](#).

Women's Seminar - January 16

The Soul Care Ministry is hosting a Women's Seminar focusing on listening to and mentoring one another after service on January 16! Its aim is to help Emmanuel women become better prayer partners, friends, sisters, daughters, wives, and mothers. All women, especially Soul Sisters, are welcome to attend.

Monday Night Prayer Meeting

Join us on Mondays from 7:30-8pm for our weekly prayer meetings! This week we will be praying for Rivendell.

Offering

We highly encourage everyone to give online through our website (click "Give" on the upper right corner) or our app (click "Give" on the bottom of the homepage). If this is not possible, then please mail checks to our office (5545 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207).

Parking at Rivendell

Please remember not to park in front of a residence when parking at Rivendell. Parking is available surrounding the Lee Community Center and park as well as the Little Ambassadors Academy parking lot.

COVID Precautions

As a friendly reminder, if you are not vaccinated, please wear a mask. Unvaccinated children older than 3 years old are also encouraged to wear a mask. And for those who would like greater social distancing precautions, the balcony is available to use during service, where wearing a mask is required.