



EMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE
DECEMBER 17, 2023

REFLECTION

"Jesus' coming is the final and unanswerable proof that God cares."
~William Barclay

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

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. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

***People:* he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.**

Leader: To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God.

***People:* To comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them the oil of gladness instead of mourning.**

~Isaiah 61:1-3

GLORY TO GOD

Glory, glory, glory to God
Glory, glory, glory to God

In the highest in the highest
Peace on earth goodwill to men

Chorus:

Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid

Randell Goodgame

NEW CITY CATECHISM

Question 31: What do we believe by true faith?

***Answer:* Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Question 32: What do justification and sanctification mean?

***Answer:* Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.**

PARTNERSHIP OFFERING PRESENTATION
SaveThem

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GREETING AND PROCESSIONAL

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Please meet your teacher in the lobby.

DOXOLOGY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON TEXT

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

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

~Ezekiel 37:1-14

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.

CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

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.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

~Psalm 32:3-5

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.

"How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How joyful is a person whom the LORD does not charge with iniquity...I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

~Psalm 32:1-2, 5

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

PARTNERSHIP OFFERING
SaveThem

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.

It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load

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 to pray for any concerns you have, through the door on the right of the stage.

Unless noted, all Scripture is English Standard Version (ESV). ■ CCLI #3184477

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.

*In the event of an emergency, call 911. Rivendell School's address is:
2410 N Kensington St, Arlington, VA 22205*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keeping Connected

If you're new to Emmanuel, we'd like to stay in touch! Please fill out a Keeping Connected card in the bulletin or on our church app. On the app, click on "Get Connected" and then "Get Connected".

December Partnership Offering - TODAY

We will collect a partnership offering for SaveThem, our partner ministry in South Africa that rescues and restores victims of human trafficking, during the closing song. Please designate this partner when giving in-person or online. Information on how to give financially to SaveThem and/or the Costanzo Family can be found in the lobby.

Christmas Partner Drive - TODAY

Stop by the Giving Tree in the lobby to donate to our neighbors in need this holiday season! Donations collected will go to Arlington Bridge Builders, Restoration Immigration Legal Aid, Project Belong, Assist Pregnancy Center, and Casa Chirilagua.

Join the Stones for Christmas - December 25

If you would like to join a local family on Christmas Day, the Stones have opened up their home for lunch at 1pm on December 25. If interested, [please contact Marianna](#).

Christmas Eve Services and New Year's Eve Service

Please join us for the following services on December 24 and December 31:

December 24: 10:30am with regular childcare provided

December 24: 5pm with nursery only. Children are welcome to attend the service

December 31: 10:30am with nursery only. Children are welcome to attend the service

Newcomers Lunch - January 14

If you're relatively new to Emmanuel, or would just like to get to know others, you are invited to a newcomer's lunch with vegetarian-friendly food hosted by Mary and Ronald Wang. The time and address will be provided during service.

Planning Seminar for Aging Parents - January 21

One of the most practical ways we can honor our aging parents is helping them prepare necessary legal documents and fostering communication about last wishes. Emmanuel member Matt DeGioia is an estate attorney, who will share his insights into how to have these difficult conversations with parents, in a way that honors and values them. Parents are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided, so please [sign up at this link](#) if interested.

Office Administrator Position for Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Emmanuel is accepting applications for the full-time staff position of Office Administrator. This position is eligible for full employee benefits. If you or someone you know is interested in applying to the position, please [contact Scott Seaton](#) for more details.