



EMMANUEL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 7, 2025

The word Emmanuel means *God With Us*, the extraordinary promise that there is no person, place or context beyond the presence of God. “Emmanuel” also has the same meaning and pronunciation in virtually every language on earth—a beautiful indication that the gospel is for all of us, equally. Regardless of who we are, where we come from, or what we’ve done, we are all freely invited to experience the nearness of God in our life and worship.

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

If you are new to Emmanuel, we’d like to stay in touch!

Fill out our Keeping Connected form to let us know you visited and to receive information about our church. You can use the QR code below, use this link (bit.ly/EPCkeepingconnected), or complete a physical form found at our Welcoming Table in the lobby.

We are so happy that you visited!





ADVENT

Advent means "arrival": a season where we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

O sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
Glory in the highest

All Hail Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
O Jesus, forever be Thy name adored
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Blakeney Family

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

People: and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

Leader: the sunrise shall visit us from on high

People: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

~Luke 1:68-69, 78-79

BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands
Who has numbered every grain of sand
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord
Who can question any of His words
Who can teach the One who knows all things
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Who has felt the nails upon His hand
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)

Stephen Altrogge | Jonathan Baird | Meghan Baird | Ryan Baird

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leader: Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight will be in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, he will not execute justice by what he hears with his ears, but he will judge the poor righteously and execute justice for the oppressed of the land. He will strike the land with a scepter from his mouth, and he will kill the wicked with a command from his lips. Righteousness will be a belt around his hips; faithfulness will be a belt around his waist.

People: The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the goat. The calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf will be together, and a child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze, their young ones will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like cattle. An infant will play beside the cobra's pit, and a toddler will put his hand into a snake's den. They will not harm or destroy each other on my entire holy mountain, for the land will be as full of the knowledge of the Lord as the sea is filled with water. On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples. The nations will look to him for guidance, and his resting place will be glorious.

~Isaiah 11:1-10

TESTIMONY

HYUN JUNG CHUNG
Artist

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

A Prayer for and by Artists

GREETING AND PROCESSIONAL

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. K-3rd will meet their teacher in the lobby. Preschoolers and 4th-5th graders will head directly to their classroom upstairs. First-time visitors, please visit the Children's Ministry Table for more information.

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

"¹The Lord also spoke to Moses: ²Look, I have appointed by name Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³I have filled him with God's Spirit, with wisdom, understanding, and ability in every craft ⁴to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze, ⁵to cut gemstones for mounting, and to carve wood for work in every craft. ⁶I have also selected Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to be with him. I have put wisdom in the heart of every skilled artisan in order to make all that I have commanded you: ⁷the tent of meeting, the ark of the testimony, the mercy seat that is on top of it, and all the other furnishings of the tent—⁸the table with its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense, ⁹the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, the basin with its stand—¹⁰the specially woven garments, both the holy garments for the priest Aaron and the garments for his sons to serve as priests, ¹¹the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense for the sanctuary. They must make them according to all that I have commanded you."

~Exodus 31:1-11

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word. Give us grace not only to hear and understand how you would speak to us today, but also the grace to trust and follow you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON

Sermons at Emmanuel encourage us to depend on the finished work of Christ rather than self-justification.

THE HEART OF THE MAKER

REV. STEPHEN BATES

OFFERING

Offering is a grateful acknowledgement of trust and worship of our God who owns everything and withholds nothing.

ONLY A HOLY GOD

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else could whisper and darkness trembles, only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice, only a Holy God

Chorus
Come and behold Him, the One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated, only a Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failure
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God, only my Holy God

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CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Lord, you taught us: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We confess that we have often valued acceptance of others over costly witness to Christ. We confess the places in our lives we have sought worldly power to avoid suffering. Give us courage and gentleness in the gospel, for your sake.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are forgiven in Christ and our assurance is based on God's promises.

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

~Isaiah 49:15-16

COMMUNION

The Lord's table is open to all who have faith in Jesus and have joined themselves to the visible body of Christ. (Gluten free wafers are available.)

HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away

Chorus
Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

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BENEDICTION

Benediction means "good word" and is a pronouncement of grace and blessing.

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.

CCLI #3184477

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Art Display - Today

Please stay after the service to interact with Hyung Jung Chung's art as part of our series on vocation.

Alpha Group Training - Today

Join us as we train to host dinners for curious friends, neighbors, and coworkers to lovingly explore questions about Jesus and Christianity. Meet after the service in the 2nd floor art room.

Emmanuel Christmas Party and Chili Cook-off - Today

Our congregation-wide Christmas party will be today from 5-7pm here at Rivendell. All ages are welcome! **Please bring a large side to share.**

Youth Group - Tonight

Youth group are invited to attend the Christmas party tonight, and a special youth event will be held during part of the party.

Men's Sexual Integrity Group - December 8

This group meets to share and pray on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7:30pm. All participants and content are kept confidential (mensintegrity@emmanuelarlington.org)

All Youth Bowling Hangout - December 12

All youth students are invited to join us for bowling at Bowl of America in Falls Church on 12/12 at 7pm. Sign up on church center ASAP if you want to come so we can make a reservation.

Cookie Exchange - December 14

Celebrate Christmas together with our annual cookie exchange after the service on December 14! Bring cookies or other sweet treats to share. Sign up on Church Center to participate in the swap.

Christmas Eve Service - December 24

Join us for a Christmas Eve Service at Rivendell from 5-6 PM. Childcare will not be provided, and we welcome all ages to join in the worship service.

Stringed Instrument Players Needed

If you still want to join the string players to play in our service on December 21, please email Lynne Denig as soon as possible. (lynnedenig4900@gmail.com)

Advent Resources Available

Advent material is available for adults and children in the lobby. Please take a copy and enjoy observing this season with our church community.

Call for Christmas Hosts and Guests

If you have room for more at your Christmas table, or if you are looking for church family to celebrate a Christmas meal with, contact Bonnie. (bblakeney@emmanuelarlington.org)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Resources Available - Today

Advent material is available for adults and children in the lobby. Please take a copy and enjoy observing this season with our church community.

Women's Integrity Partners Meeting - December 1

The Integrity Partners' Group, a group for spouses of individuals struggling with sexual integrity, will meet once or twice a month. All meeting participants and content are kept confidential. For more information, contact integritypartners@emmanuelarlington.org.

Emmanuel Christmas Party - December 7

Our congregation-wide Christmas party will be on December 7 from 5-7pm here at Rivendell. All ages are welcome! **Please bring a large side to share.**

Chili Cook-off - December 7

Sign up on Church Center to enter the stiff competition for our annual Chili Cookoff! Last year's winner, Courtney Roberts, set the bar high. This fun event will take place on December 7 during the Christmas party.

All Youth Bowling Hangout - December 12

Save the date for an all youth bowling hangout (6th-12th grade). More details to come!

Cookie Exchange - December 14

Celebrate Christmas together with our annual cookie exchange after the service on December 14! Bring cookies to share and take some home. Sign up on Church Center to participate in the swap.

Christmas Eve Service - December 24

Join us for a Christmas Eve Service at Rivendell from 5-7 PM. Childcare will not be provided, and we welcome all ages to join in the worship service.

New ESOL Class for Adults

Are you—or someone you know—interested in learning English? We're starting a fun and welcoming ESOL class for beginners, meeting one evening a week for 1.5 hours. Our goal is to create a community where everyone is known, cared for, and encouraged as we learn together. You don't need to be part of the church to join—everyone is welcome! Email Mona Lindeman for more information. (mona.lindeman62@gmail.com)

Strings Players Needed

Calling all interested bowed string players, no matter level or age, to consider playing for our Advent service on Dec. 21st. Please contact Lynne Denig by December 5. (lynnedenig4900@gmail.com)

Call for Christmas Hosts and Guests

If you have room for more at your Christmas table, or if you are looking for church family to celebrate a Christmas meal with, contact Bonnie. (bblakeney@emmanuelarlington.org)

Call for Photos

Did you take photos at a fellowship event or other church event this year? Please share them for the Christmas party slideshow. Photos will not be posted publicly outside this event without express permission. (bblakeney@emmanuelarlington.org)