



EMMANUEL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24, 2023

**REFLECTION**

"Waiting is not just something we have to do until we get what we want. Waiting is part of the process of becoming what God wants us to be."

*~John Ortberg*

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

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
O sing all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God all  
Glory in the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade  
CCLI Song #31054

**ADVENT READING - CHRIST, OUR LIGHT**

*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 people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

***People:* those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.**

*Leader:* You have multiplied the nation;

***People:* You have increased its joy**

*~Isaiah 9:2-3*

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

2016 Farren Love And War Publishing

## NEW CITY CATECHISM

*Question 33: Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?*

**Answer: No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior.**

*Question 34: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?*

**Answer: Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.**

## 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.

*Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo. Santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Amén.*

### GREETING AND PROCESSIONAL

Children up to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

<sup>5</sup>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." <sup>18</sup>And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." <sup>19</sup>And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>21</sup>And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup>And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup>And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup>After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup>"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

~Luke 1:5-25

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, quiet our hearts that we may know and hear you today. Where our hearts are hard, soften them; where they are broken, bind them up; where we are anxious, give us peace; where we doubt, give us trust. For you alone are the One who is making all things new, even us today. 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.*

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS?

REV. YOUNG LEE

### 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.*

### COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry  
In the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
Robed in frail humanity  
In our longing in our darkness  
Now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ who condescended  
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry  
He the perfect Son of Man  
In His living in His suff'ring  
Never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam  
Come to save the hell-bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry  
Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
Hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption  
See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory  
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry  
Slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him  
Praise the Lord He is alive  
What a foretaste of deliv'rance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when He comes

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Michael Bleecker

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*~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.*

"We wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

*~Titus 2:13*

### **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.*

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heav - en, Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
No thorns enfeeble the grove  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders  
Wonders, wonders  
Wonders, wonders, of His love

## 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".

### **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 - TOMORROW**

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 and New Year's Eve Service**

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

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

### **Testimony Sharing - December 31**

On Sunday, December 31, we will continue our annual tradition of reflecting on the past year. During the service, you are invited to share a brief story in response to the question, "How have you seen God's faithfulness in 2023?" Whether it's a story of sorrow or celebration, please consider sharing your thoughts, so that others can be encouraged by how God was present in your life.

### **End of Year Giving Instructions - By December 31**

Emmanuel wants to ensure that you receive proper credit for year-end donations on your 2023 tax return. If you give online, please initiate your gift before midnight Eastern Standard Time. If you give by check in person, please place your check in the offering by December 31. If you mail a check, please ensure your letter is postmarked on or before December 31. Backdated checks given in 2024 cannot be recorded as donations in 2023.

### **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.