



EMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE
DECEMBER 31, 2023

REFLECTION

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

~Martin Luther

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

This is my Father's world
And to my list'ning ears
All nature sings and 'round me rings
Music of the spheres

This is my Father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light the lily white
Declare their Maker's praise

Chorus:

This is my Father's world
He shines in all that's fair
In the rust'ling grass I hear Him pass
He speaks to me ev'rywhere

This is my Father's world
O let me ne'er forget
And though the wrong seems oft so strong
God is the Ruler yet
And though the wrong seems oft so strong
God is the Ruler yet

This is my Father's world
Why should my heart be sad
The Lord is King let the heavens ring
God reigns let the earth be glad
The Lord is King let the heavens ring
God reigns let the earth be glad

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

Leader: A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath

***People:* It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High**

Leader: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night

***People:* For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

~Psalm 92:1-4

LORD I NEED YOU

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus:

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge:

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Chorus:

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

NEW CITY CATECHISM

Question 35: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

Answer: All the gifts we receive from Christ we receive through the Holy Spirit, including faith itself.

Question 36: What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

Answer: That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

GREETING AND PROCESSIONAL

Nursery is available for children up to two years old.

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.

Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" ²The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." ³And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. ⁴But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— ⁵"that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

~Exodus 4:1-5

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.

WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

CARLOS DIMAS

STORIES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

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.

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

Chorus:

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

Joshua Moore | Sandra McCracken

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Cleanse us from our secret faults, O Lord...we fear deceiving ourselves. If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

~Augustine

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.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David..."

~Luke 1:69-70

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.

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

CCLI Song # 3350395

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".

Testimony Sharing - TODAY

On Sunday, December 31, we will continue our annual tradition of reflecting on the past year. After the sermon, 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 TODAY

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.