



EMMANUEL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE
FEBRUARY 8, 2026

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.

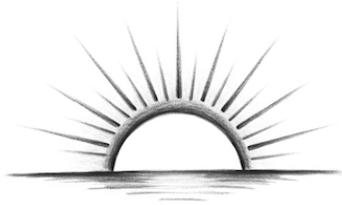
WELCOME TO EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Use the QR code to fill out our Keeping Connected form (physical forms are available in the lobby) to receive information about our church. You can also use Church Center for general purposes such as registering for events.



Church Center



EPIPHANY

Epiphany celebrates Jesus, the light of the world, in his ministry on earth.

GOD IS ABLE

God is able, He will never fail
He is Almighty God;
Greater than all we seek, greater than all we ask
He has done great things

Chorus

Lifted up, He defeated the grave
Raised to life our God is able
In His Name we overcome
For the Lord our God is able

God is with us, God is on our side
He will make a way
Far above all we know, far above all we hope
He has done great things

God is with us, He will go before
He will never leave us, He will never leave us
God is for us, He has open arms
He will never fail us, He will never fail us
For the Lord our God is able
For the Lord our God is able

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INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

Leader: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number,

People: from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

Leader: clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "

People: Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

~ Revelation 7:9-10

ALL SUFFICIENT MERIT

All sufficient merit, shining like the sun
A fortune I inherit by no work I have done
My righteousness I forfeit at my Savior's cross
Where all sufficient merit did what I could not

In love He condescended, eternal now in time
A life without a blemish, the Maker made to die
The law could never save us, our lawlessness had won
Until the pure and spotless Lamb had finally come

It is done, it is finished, no more debt I owe
Paid in full, all sufficient merit, now my own

I lay down my garments, any empty boast
Good works, all corrupted by the sinful host
I'm dressed in my Lord Jesus, a crimson robe made white
No more fear of judgement, His righteousness is mine

All sufficient merit, firm in life and death
The joy of my salvation shall be my final breath
When I stand accepted before the throne of God
I'll gaze upon my Jesus, and thank Him for the cross
Yes I'll thank you for the cross

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Leader: ¹⁸For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. ¹⁹For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent, ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? ²¹For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached. ²²For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. ²⁴Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, ²⁵because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

People: ²⁶Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. ²⁷Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, ²⁹so that no one may boast in his presence. ³⁰It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption ³¹—in order that, as it is written: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. (*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL 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 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Preschoolers and 4th-5th graders will head directly to their classroom upstairs; K-3rd will meet their teacher in the lobby. 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.

¹When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, 'David is in the wilderness near En-gedi.' ²So Saul took three thousand of Israel's fit young men and went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. ³When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave, ⁴so they said to him, 'Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: 'I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.' Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe. ⁵Afterward, David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the corner of Saul's robe. ⁶He said to his men, 'As the Lord is my witness, I would never do such a thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed. I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the Lord's anointed.' ⁷With these words David persuaded his men, and he did not let them rise up against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way. ⁸After that, David got up, went out of the cave, and called to Saul, 'My lord the king!' When Saul looked behind him, David knelt low with his face to the ground and paid homage. ⁹David said to Saul, 'Why do you listen to the words of people who say, 'Look, David intends to harm you?' ¹⁰You can see with your own eyes that the Lord handed you over to me today in the cave. Someone advised me to kill you, but I took pity on you and said: I won't lift my hand against my lord, since he is the Lord's anointed. ¹¹Look, my father! Look at the corner of your robe in my hand, for I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. Recognize that I've committed no crime or rebellion. I haven't sinned against you even though you are hunting me down to take my life. ¹²May the Lord judge between me and you, and may the Lord take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you. ¹³As the old proverb says, 'Wickedness comes from wicked people.' My hand will never be against you. ¹⁴Who has the king of Israel come after? What are you chasing after? A dead dog? A single flea? ¹⁵May the Lord be judge and decide between you and me. May he take notice and plead my case and deliver me from you.' ¹⁶When David finished saying these things to him, Saul replied, 'Is that your voice, David my son?' Then Saul wept aloud ¹⁷and said to David, 'You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. ¹⁸You yourself have told me today what good you did for me: when the Lord handed me over to you, you didn't kill me. ¹⁹When a man finds his enemy, does he let him go unharmed? May the Lord repay you with good for what you've done for me today. ²⁰Now I know for certain you will be king, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. ²¹Therefore swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family.' ²²So David swore to Saul. Then Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold."

~1 Samuel 24:1-22

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

SERMON

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

The "Foolishness" of God

Rev. Stephen Bates

OFFERING

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

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
Every 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

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

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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.

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment." ~Psalm 51:1-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

"God will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."
~Micah 7:19

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.)

HOLY IS THE LORD

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great how awesome is He

And together we sing
Everyone sing

Chorus

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

It is rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

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NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Ian Drobish
Melissa Drobish
Solomon Gebrehiwot
Paul Glader
Steph Jiang
Lenny Jiang

Janice Lam
Phil Lam
Anne Waidmann
Brian Waidmann
Macy Young

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Theological Foundations - Today

Join us for a four-part series on foundations of theology, exploring the mystery of our Christian faith using scripture, the Westminster Confession, and other resources to help us see the living God in His beauty. Sign up for the class on [Church Center](#).

Youth Group - Today

All 6th-12th graders are invited to Youth Group for games & discussion. Come upstairs to the gym after service.

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 conference room.

Youth Group Super Bowl Party - Today

Youth students and family members are invited to a Super Bowl Watch Party at the Jiangs' house! Serious game watchers, commercial fans, and those just there for the food are all welcome. Please bring a side dish, snack, dessert or drink to share, and sign up on [Church Center](#).

Men's Sexual Integrity Group - February 9

The men's group meets every 2nd and 4th Monday for a time of sharing and prayer at 7:30pm. Contact mensintegrity@emmanuelarlington.org for more information.

Middle School Girls' Galentine's Hangout - February 14

The Middle School Girl Youth Group mentors are hosting a Galentine's Event from 12-2 PM for all middle school girls! Come celebrate friendship with games, treats, and fun activities. Sign up on [Church Center](#) for more details.

Sparks Galentine's Party - February 14

Girls in grades 3-5, come celebrate God's love and friendship together with a Galentine's party. We'll do a craft, decorate cupcakes, play games, and have a devotional from 6-7:30 PM. Come and invite friends! Sign up on [Church Center](#).

Lunar New Year Dumpling Making - February 22

All youth are invited to make dumplings before the Lunar New Year party. We're looking for a handful of parents willing to either make fillings or help cook dumplings. Looking forward to this fun event! Sign up on [Church Center](#).

Woks & Blocks Lunar New Year Party - February 22

Celebrate the Lunar New Year from 2:00pm to 4:00pm on February 22. We will have mahjong and karaoke, and we ask everyone to bring a dish or drink to share. Register on [Church Center](#) so we know how many people to expect.

Intro to Emmanuel - March 1

If you are new to Emmanuel and want to learn more about the church, you're invited to an informal luncheon seminar after service from 12:30pm-2:00pm. Handbooks are available in both English and Spanish. The luncheon also serves as our Membership Seminar, but attending does not obligate you to join the church. Email office@emmanuelarlington.org or sign up through [Church Center](#) to RSVP.

Support the Johnsons

Find ways to support Emmanuel members Evan and Mollie Johnson and their daughters. Volunteer to organize medical supplies, be a mother's helper, or babysit the younger two girls for Mollie to attend small group. Needs are posted regularly on their support registry - <https://www.supportnow.org/the-johnson-family>

Fellowship Month Event Sign up

Every March, we emphasize fellowship with congregant-led gatherings throughout the month. If you have an idea to help know others and be known, sign up on [Church Center](#). Whatever you enjoy doing, consider inviting others to join you!

Sharing Cold Weather Gear

As the weather has turned cold, we are mindful of our friends and neighbors who are suffering. Please consider donating gently used or new coats, hats, scarves and gloves, particularly adult sizes, in the next couple of weeks. We will have a collection box in the lobby, or you can drop off to the church office. Carlos Dimas will hand these out at the ABB Food Pantry over the next few weeks.