

**WELCOME to ReFresh at EMMANUEL**  
**(Restoring Energy, Faith and Relevance to Every Soul's Heart)**  
**December 5, 2021**

**Special Notice:**

For the safety of everyone, we will be complying with the updated CDC guidelines recommending universal indoor masking for ALL people, regardless of vaccination status. Please wear your mask when you come to church.

Welcome to worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! The grace of God has brought us together to be Light and Leaven in and for the World. As a congregation, Emmanuel is committed to following the path of Jesus' spirituality, serving as an oasis of healing, and promoting unity and understanding among religious traditions.

Our Food Pantry and Mission House reach out to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Rockford community. "There is a place...Emmanuel."

Welcome Visitors! We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Thank you for worshiping with us. Emmanuel strives to live as a Safe and Healing Spiritual Community for all who come, regardless of economic conditions, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or spiritual path. All are welcome in this holy space.

We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at our 9:00am Traditional Worship Service in the chapel or our ReFresh 10:30am Service either in person or on ZOOM. The zoom link is available on constant contact weekly or in the weekly mailing. If you are not receiving the constant contact weekly, contact the church office at 815-963-4815. The Recorded Service will be available on Facebook after the completion of the 10:30am Service.

**Date: December 5, 2021**  
**Theme: Second Sunday in Advent—Truth**

**Prelude: Clea Arbogast**

**Welcome: Pastor Frank Langholf**

**Meditation:** The way of peace is the way of truth. Truthfulness is even more important than peacefulness. —Mahatma Gandhi

**Our Community Declaration:**

**Guided by Spirit's Wisdom, Inspired by Creator's Imagination,  
Centered in Christ's Love, and knowing that God is our Source,  
Emmanuel is a Spiritual Community that is progressive, inclusive, creative, and called  
to serve.**

**Opening of the Heart: From All Desires Known—Janet Morley**  
**Holy and Incarnate One**

Holy and incarnate one, at whose unexpected touch  
The ordinary world is charged with God:

We pray for those  
Whose hardship is overwhelming, who cannot find you;  
Who live in poverty, anxiety, and hunger;  
Who lives are fearful or lonely;  
Who are exploited, exhausted, or ill.

For the Word was made flesh  
**And dwelt among us.**

We pray for those  
Whose ambition is overwhelming, who do not want to find you;  
Whose lives are choked with overwork or consumption;  
Who have chosen an unreal path;  
Who have hardened their hearts.

For the Word was made flesh  
**And dwelt among us.**

We pray for those  
Who have begun to find you, and are overwhelmed;  
For whom the risk of healing is too painful;  
Who are afraid of your embrace,  
And fear your energetic power  
To reconstitute the world.

For the Word was made flesh  
**And dwelt among us.**

**Proclamation of Grace:**

Presider: The Good News is we are beloved children of God. We live in the promise of Christ, and NOTHING can ever separate us from God's love.

**Gathering Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**O come, you Source and Ground of endless light,  
As strength that never yields to might.  
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,  
That war and greed and hate at last shall cease.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.**

Pastor: Inner peace comes only as we maintain the integrity of truth in all aspects of our lives. —Russell M. Nelson

**Advent Song: Light One Candle to watch For Messiah (ELW240) verse 2**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—Steve and Marcia Terrill

This morning marks the second Sunday in the season of Advent. In the Christian tradition, Advent is the beginning of the church year, recognizing the transforming power of God in the world, and looking forward toward the birth of Jesus and celebration of spiritual light. And Christianity is not alone in celebrating light at this time of year: Hanukkah, Solstice, and Kwanzaa all involve candles, fire, and lights as part of their celebrations.

Each week until Christmas, we light a new candle on the Advent wreath. The circle reminds us of the eternal cycle of all life, without beginning or end. And the candles remind us that we are each called to emit our glow amid the pain and suffering facing our world. The light of Advent grows brighter and brighter guiding us toward personal peace, shared joy, and more love.

This morning we light the second candle. We light this candle as a symbol of our longing for peace. We bring our hope into the world when we practice peacemaking. Our caring community aspires to be a source of freedom from violence and exclusion. May we become the ones “we have been waiting for”. Together, may we strive to create a lasting peace.

## Emmanuel, Emmanuel— by Jonathan Chell

Chant style Emmanuel

Em - man - u - el Em - man u - el His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us re vealed in us His name is called Emmanuel

### First Reading:

I still believe that standing up for the truth of God is the greatest thing in the world. This is the end (purpose) of life. The end of life is not to be happy. The end of life is not to achieve pleasure and avoid pain. The end of life is to do the will of God, come what may.  
—Martin Luther King

**Second Reading: from Psalm 85, Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
Righteousness and peace will embrace one another.  
Wisdom will spring up from the ground and truth  
will look down from the sky.  
Yes, the Eternal Giver will grant what is good,  
and the lands will yield abundantly.  
Mercy and compassion are Love's way;  
You will guide our footsteps upon the path of peace  
as we recognize with open hearts that  
You are our peace.

**Scripture /Meditation Song: We are waiting for Jesus (ACS905)**



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings *peace.*  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings *truth.*



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings *peace.*  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings *truth.*



Sun of jus - tice, shine up-on us; we are trust - ing in your prom-ise.  
Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings *peace.*  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings *truth.*

**Scripture: Psalm 25 from Nan Merrill's Psalms for Praying**

To you, O Love, I lift up my soul!  
O Heart within my heart, in You I place my trust.  
Let me not feel unworthy;  
Let not fear ruled over me.  
Yes! May all who open their hearts  
savor You and bless the earth!

Compel me to know your ways, O Love;  
Instruct me upon your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
For through You will I know wholeness;  
I shall reflect your Light both day and night.

I know of your mercy, Blessed One,  
and of your unconditional Love;  
You have been with me from the beginning.  
Forgive the many times I have walked away from you  
choosing to follow my own will.  
I seek your guidance, once again,  
I yearn to know your Peace.  
Companion me as I open to your Will!

You are gracious and just, O Spirit of Truth,  
happy to guide those who miss their way;  
You enjoy teaching all who are open,  
all who choose to live in truth.  
Your paths are loving and sure, O Holy One,  
and those who give witness to you  
Through their lives are blessed beyond measure.

Presider: These are the words of an early Jewish community.

**All: May we find wisdom for our living.**

**Sermon: Pastor Frank Langholf**

**Offering:** We take this time now to offer our gifts and intentions.

**Special Music: Waiting for Emmanuel --Emmanuel Choir**

## **Advent Table Celebration**

One: May Love be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

One: May our hearts be opened.

**All: We open ourselves to life.**

One: Creator of light, Bearer of life, Source of love, your ancient love stirs within us.

The sacred emerges for us everywhere: in the rhythm of the oceans, in the magnificence of the stars, in the beauty of all beings.

**All: We are grateful for the gifts of our story. In this season, we listen for the voices crying in the wilderness. We sing the song of angels who quiet our fears. We find ourselves in the company of shepherds and magi who search for what is coming to birth in unlikely places among unlikely people. In the company of courageous parents, we dare to birth the holy among us.**

One: In the divine, we live and move and have our being. For all that is born of a sacred love, we give our thanks and praise. The advent of the holy is among us in every moment.

**All: In Jesus of Nazareth, we see new possibilities, new ways of being in the world. He was moved by the plight of the poor. He made his home with the homeless and shared his table with those who could not command a seat at any table. He dreamed of a world where enemies learned to love one another, where the abundance of creation was shared fairly, and where love was the law of every land.**

One: Near the end of his life, Jesus shared a sacred tradition of his people and shaped it into something new. Around a simple table, he celebrated the liberating story of Passover. He dreamed of another revolution: a world without a Pharaoh or a Caesar; a world governed by the love which brought it into being. Together with his friends, Jesus broke the bread of freedom and shared the cup of compassion.

Breaking the Bread of Freedom

Pouring the Cup of Compassion

**Praying in the Pattern of the Prayer of Jesus (together)**

**Holy Being, whom we call by so many different names,**

**Blessed are you. Blessed are we in you.**

**May we create with you a realm of mercy, peace and justice.**

**May love be done in the here and now as it is in the infinite.**

**May we share life in bread and hope.**

**For our failures to love, we need forgiveness.**

**May we find the paths of reconciliation.**

**In the midst of evil's every incarnation,**

**From the powers that possess our spirits and our structures,**

**May we find liberation.**

**In the power that is love, we seek to live and move and have our being.**

**May it be so, now and forever, AMEN.**

**Receiving the Invitation to the Table**

One: Come from loneliness into the welcome of this table.

**All: Come from anxiety into the peace of this table.**

One: Come from tensions into the joy of this table.

**All: Come from conflict into the love of this table.**

One: Come and share the bread which leavens our hope.

**All: Come and share the cup which strengthens our compassion.**

One: Come to enliven our capacity to work for transformation.

**All: Come, let us lay aside those things that shield our hearts.**

One: Let us open to the holy we meet in the manger and in the mirror.

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

**Communion Music: Emmanuel Choir**

**Prayer (together):**

**Spirit of life, though we live in a world of need, here we have tasted hope and hunger for a world more just. Here we have glimpsed the dream of creation renewed. May we have the courage to be bread and wine for one another, in the name of love we pray, AMEN**

**Prayer Song and Response: Sacred Fire—Jan Novotka**

**Sacred fire, burning before me,  
Burning within me, deep in my soul,  
Sacred fire, transforming fire,  
Recreate me, make me whole.**

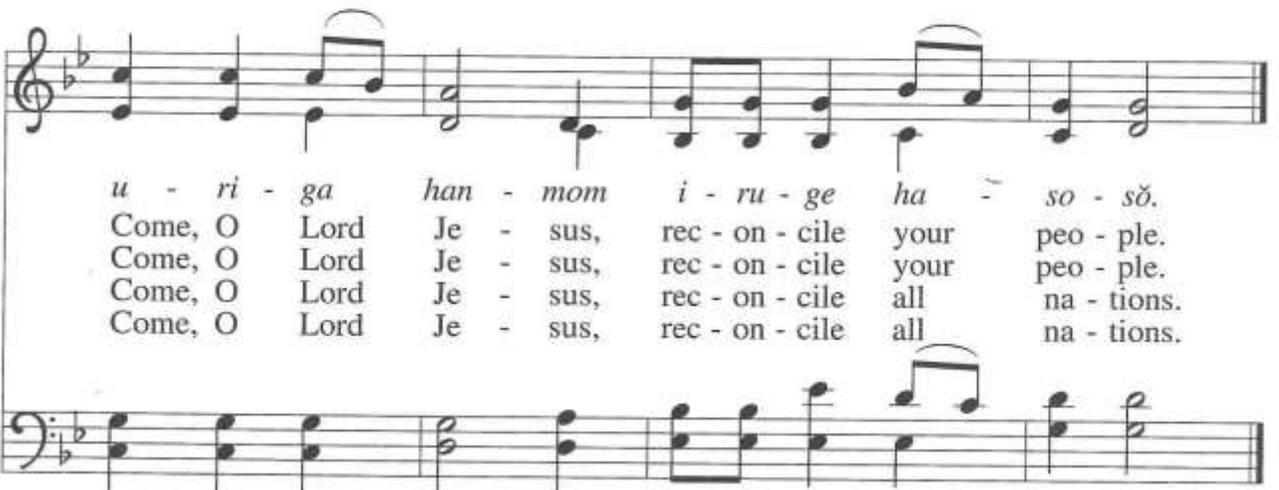
**Prayers of the People**

**Sending Song: Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW247)**



*O - so - sǎ      o - so - sǎ,      pyong - hwa - ũi      - im - gŭm*

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga      han - mom      i - ru - ge      ha      so - sǎ.*

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

**Benediction:**

Almighty God,  
all thoughts of truth and peace  
proceed from you.  
Kindle in the hearts of all people  
the true love of peace.  
Guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel  
for the nations of the earth;  
that in tranquility your kingdom  
may go forward,  
till the earth is filled  
with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

–From the *Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland*, St. Andrew Press.

**Sharing of the Peace**

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Presider: Pastor Frank Langholf	IT Consultant: Bill Houtkamp
Lector: Steve Terrill	Sound: Andrew Ehrhardt
Special Music: Emmanuel Choir	Remote Zoom Co-host: Eric Johnson
Coordinator of Adult Music Ministries: Tim Fenelon	Usher: Jack Ream
Accompanist: Clea Arbogast	Greeting Cards: Ann Downie
Advent candle lighters: Marcia and Steve Terrill	
Altar Guild: Lois Ference, Susan Hurley	

**We Pray for Healing**

Roycealea Wood	Netha Morgan	Reid Ferguson	Holly Blair Cascio
Lucio Aldana	Betty Ralston	Jeff Birch	Andrea Glynn
Jonathan Chell	Jennifer Olson	Nolan Olson	LouAnn Johnson
Xander Olson	Todd Anderson		

**RUMI'S WEDDING NIGHT**

**Friday, December 17th, 7:00pm at Emmanuel**

RUMI'S WEDDING NIGHT WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS 25th YEAR!! We will have to have been vaccinated and wear a mask. You are invited to bring a drum to join rhythms and share a Rumi poem that you have memorized (when you memorize a poem, you will find that it leaves the page and arrives into you...great practice). We will practice some distance, be safe, and use the whole sanctuary at times. Come join us for a Holy Night.



**THE BIRTH OF JESUS  
CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATIONS**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
920 Third Avenue, Rockford, IL**

**Dec. 24: 3:00pm**

**Christmas Eve Calvary/Emmanuel Family Candlelight Service**

**Christmas Eve Message: Pastor Chuck Olson**

**Special Music: Marianne Higginbotham, Calvary Praise Band**

**Organist: Mark Calvert**

**Dec. 24:**

**10:30pm Christmas Concert**

**11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Christmas Eve Message: Pastor Frank Langhof**

**Music by Special Vocalists and Musicians, Emmanuel Choir**

**Piano/Organ Accompaniment: Clea Arbogast**

**Saturday, Dec. 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday, Dec. 26: 10:00am Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, Dec. 26 10:00am Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Spiritual Journeys Book Study, Tuesdays, 9:30-11 am**

We are meeting by Zoom for Spiritual Journeys for the time being, until Covid restrictions are lifted. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88225771321>

We are reading the 2014 edition of Parker J. Palmer's "Healing the Heart of Democracy:

The Courage to Create a Politics worthy of the Human Spirit." You may know of the author, from a Quaker background, writer, teacher, activist, theologian.

[https://www.amazon.com/Healing-Heart-Democracy-Courage](https://www.amazon.com/Healing-Heart-Democracy-Courage-Politics/dp/1118907507/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=healing+the+heart+of+democracy&qid=1624982841&s=books&sr=1-1)

[Politics/dp/1118907507/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=](https://www.amazon.com/Healing-Heart-Democracy-Courage-Politics/dp/1118907507/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=healing+the+heart+of+democracy&qid=1624982841&s=books&sr=1-1)

[healing+the+heart+of+democracy&qid=1624982841&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Healing-Heart-Democracy-Courage-Politics/dp/1118907507/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=healing+the+heart+of+democracy&qid=1624982841&s=books&sr=1-1)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Emmanuel hosts NPR's ON BEING on Zoom every Sunday at 9:00 am.**

We listen together, read along with transcript, and pause to share our thoughts.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88058004528>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bible Studies: Emmanuel: Wednesdays at noon. Zoom link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356888344pwd=dEw2NHVsSOJzYWdxUWdGVVk](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356888344pwd=dEw2NHVsSOJzYWdxUWdGVVk3OE5XZz09)

[3OE5XZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356888344pwd=dEw2NHVsSOJzYWdxUWdGVVk3OE5XZz09)



## Poinsettia Garden

If you would like a poinsettia in the Poinsettia Garden, please complete this form and mail it to  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110**  
or bring it to the church office, or place in the offering plate.  
Plants are \$10.00.

All poinsettias are to be picked up after the Christmas Eve. or Dec. 26th Service.  
No names will be listed on the plants. If you wish to give a poinsettia to a shut-in,  
Please make arrangements for delivery.

If you choose, you may make a memorial donation in lieu of a plant.  
All donations will be given to Emmanuel's general fund in memory or in honor  
of Loved Ones. Please make checks payable to Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

### **DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS IS DECEMBER 10, 2021**

I wish to order \_\_\_\_ Poinsettias. My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Please list as follows: (Print)

In memory or in honor of Loved Ones by\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*In memory or in honor of*\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By\_\_\_\_\_

*and/or*

*I am making a donation to Emmanuel in the amount of \$*\_\_\_\_\_

*in memory or in honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

By\_\_\_\_\_

## **OUR MISSION**

"The Grace of God has brought us together

- \* to become Christs
- \* to become the New Community
- \* to be Light and Leaven for the World."

## **OUR VISION**

We are called to...

- \* Study and Practice the Spirituality of Jesus
- \* Live as a Safe and Healing Spiritual Community for all who come, regardless of economic conditions, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or spiritual path.
- \* Become instruments of God's Grace by:
  - \* Promoting understanding and unity between religious traditions, encouraging healing of the soul and the community through Sacred Arts (chant, ritual, dance, poetry, visual arts, music) and Spiritual practice.
  - \* Reaching the suffering ones among us through physical and mental health ministries, (food pantry, addiction recovery, refugee and sexual victim support, parish nursing, and holistic counseling.)
  - \* Working for racial equity
  - \* Working toward the healing and protection of God's Sacred Creation

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Avenue, Rockford, IL 61104

Mailing address, P. O. Box 4362, Rockford, IL 61110

815-963-4815 Fax: 815-963-4808 [emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelchurch07@gmail.com) [elcrockford.org](http://elcrockford.org)

Pastor Frank Langholf, phone; 309-509-5241, email; [fslangholf@gmail.com](mailto:fslangholf@gmail.com)