



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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[www.immanuelnyc.org](http://www.immanuelnyc.org)

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# Christmas Morning



*Christmas Window at Wartburg Chapel, Mount Vernon, NY*

## The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus

11 AM, Friday morning, December 25, 2020

## *Lutheran Book of Worship*

### **Christmas Music**

*Sung by the Immanuel Choir*

#### ANTHEM

#### *Noel Nouvelet*

#### Traditional French carol

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici,  
Dévotes gens, rendons à Dieu merci,  
Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet,  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Quand je m'éveillai et eus assez dormi,  
ouvris les yeux, vis un arbre fleuri  
dont il sortait un bouton vermeillet.  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

D'un oiselet bientôt le chant ouïs,  
qui aux pasteurs disait: "Partez d'ici,  
en Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet."  
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.  
Faithful people, shout out our thanks to God,  
sing Noel for the new-born king.

A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.

When I awoke, having slept long enough  
I opened my eyes and saw a flowering tree  
where I saw a marvelous flower bud.  
A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.

Soon we heard a song from a little bird,  
who said to the shepherds: "Go from here,  
in Bethlehem you will find the little Lamb."  
A new Christmas, we sing of Christmas here.

Flute Sonata in B minor, BWV 1030: Largo e dolce  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
Rosa Maria Lazon Egusquiza, flute

### **The Entrance Rite**

#### INTRODUCTION AND GREETING

**P** I bring you good tidings of great joy; A Saviour has been born to us. Alleluia!

**C** **Unto us a child is born, a son is given. Alleluia!**

**P** Hear the words of St. Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

**P** He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

**C** **We worship and adore him. Alleluia!**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

## GLORIA, LBW

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word of God

FIRST LESSON ..... Isaiah 52:7-10, RSV  
*A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" Everyone will witness the salvation of God.*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
 are the feet of him who brings good tidings,  
 who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good,  
 who publishes salvation,  
 who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice,  
 together they sing for joy;  
 for eye to eye they see  
 the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
 you waste places of Jerusalem;  
 for the LORD has comforted his people,  
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
 before the eyes of all the nations;  
 and all the ends of the earth shall see  
 the salvation of our God.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON .....Hebrews 1:1-4, RSV

*This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.*

<sup>1</sup>In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He reflects the glory of God and bears the

very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

**C** Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL ..... John 1:1-14, RSV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God; <sup>3</sup>all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

*After the Gospel:*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord!

## SERMON

NICENE CREED (*In olden days, it was customary for people to bow at the confession of the Holy Incarnation: "...and was made man." This seems especially suitable for the great Christmas liturgies. If you would like to do so, the place is marked in this text:)*

**W**e believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he *became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## INTERCESSIONS

## The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

## THE PEACE

**☩** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**☩** **And also with you.**

*Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."*

## THE OFFERING

Donate now: [Donate](#)

Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)

## ANTHEM

*Gaudete! Christus est natus* From *Piae Cantiones* (1582)  
Ryland Angel, countertenor soloist

Gaudete! Christus est natus  
Ex Maria vergine, gaudete!

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born  
Of the Virgin Mary — rejoice!

Tempus adest gratiae  
Hoc quod optabamus.  
Carmina laetitiae  
Devote reddamus.  
Gaudete...

The time of grace has come—  
This that we have desired,  
Verses of joy  
Let us devoutly return.  
Rejoice...

Deus homo factus est  
Natura mirante,  
Mundus renovatus est  
A Christo regnante.  
Gaudete...

God has become man,  
To the wonderment of Nature,  
The world has been renewed  
By the reigning Christ.  
Rejoice...

Ezechielis porta  
Clausa pertransitur,  
Unde lux est orta  
Salus invenitur.  
Gaudete...

The closed gate of Ezekiel  
Is passed through,  
Whence the light is born,  
Salvation is found.  
Rejoice...

Ergo nostra contio  
Psallat iam in lustro;  
Benedicat Domino:  
Salus Regi nostro.  
Gaudete...

Therefore let our gathering  
Now sing in brightness  
Let it give praise to the Lord:  
Greeting to our King.  
Rejoice...

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*spoken*)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### *Preface for Christmas*

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *Sanctus*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### *Eucharistic Prayer II*

**P** You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the

sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**☩ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**☩** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**☩ Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

**☩** Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

*The Lord's Prayer*

**☩ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Fraction. (The host is broken.)*

*Agnus Dei*

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

✠ If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible "Prayer for Spiritual Communion" lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*



ANTHEM

*Wonderful Peace*      Gustav Nordquist (1886-1946)

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
peace to the world is given.  
Hushed are the angels, so still is the  
night;  
Then in the East shone a heavenly  
light.  
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!  
Glory to God, to the newly born King.  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace.  
Men of good will receive Him.  
Holiest of nights, O most wond'rous of  
days;  
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in  
praise.  
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!  
Glory to God, to the newly born King.  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
peace to the world is given.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his  
grace.

**C Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. God our Father, we ask you to give us a new birth as we celebrate  
the beginning of your Son's life on earth. Strengthen us in spirit through this holy  
sacrament and let us share his life completely by living as he has taught; through  
the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Silence for reflection.*

## Benediction

SOLEMN BLESSING

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, who of old on this day appeared in the humility of a  
manger to the shepherds, give you peace.

He himself, who for us mercifully took upon himself our human infancy, protect  
and defend you.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen!**

HYMN LBW 55

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

## Service Notes

Music Director and Organist.....Dr. Gwendolyn Toth

The Immanuel Choir:

Sopranos: Andrea Cortes-Comerer, Carol Fryer, Motomi Tanaka

Altos: Juli Borst, Amy Bruce, Virginia Kaycoff, Paul Lee, Sara Ruderman,

Agus Sutikno, Rosa Maria Lazon

Tenors: Ryland Angel, Michael Celentano, Bruce Rickenbacher

Basses: Peter Becker, Karl Peterson, Robb Moss

Assisting Minister and Preacher..... Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Presiding Minister..... Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer

## Intercessions

NEW TO PRAYER LIST: John Romano and family (brother-in-law of Richard Schreiber), Marion Molno, Emma Kaefer, Bruce Harbour (Robin's father), Peter Davie (godfather of Thomas Wicks), Bennett Harris (colleague of Pastors Fryer), Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl's sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Yoleidy Perez (Tamares's brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Charlie Beckwith (friend of Thomas Wicks), Olga Beloded (John Imhof's wife), Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre's mother)

*Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer and the Staff of Immanuel Lutheran Church wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas and God's continuing strength, grace, and peace in the new year! We extend our warm thanks for your many Christmas cards, good wishes and kindnesses to us.*

# Online Giving to Immanuel

A Note from Pastor Gregory Fryer

Nowadays we have the option of giving online. Here is our QR code.



I find that if I simply point the camera on my iPhone to this code, a link comes up leading directly to our Immanuel online giving form. It is pretty easy.

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## Looking Ahead

### Name of Jesus

11 AM, Friday, January 1, 2021

What a good way to start the New Year: bringing to mind the blessed Name given to us in Baptism -- Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. That good Name is given us both for our comfort and our encouragement in holiness of life. This year's liturgy will be given via Zoom from the parsonage.

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HOLY COMMUNION.....	11 AM Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION .....	6:30 PM Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL .....	Via Zoom these days
MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY .....	6:30 PM Mondays, via Zoom these days
INTERIM OFFICE MANAGER.....	Melissa Phillips
SEXTON .....	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER .....	Charles Derderian
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.....	Dr. Gwendolyn Toth
PASTOR .....	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
SENIOR PASTOR.....	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

**W**e extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Carol Fryer. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol. Or you can email her at [ceafryer@gmail.com](mailto:ceafryer@gmail.com).

- ✦ HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Church's faith, who confess it with us (as in the Creeds), and who may in good conscience receive the Sacrament in keeping with the understanding with which it is celebrated here: namely, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- ✦ HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated and MARRIAGES solemnized only after consultation with the pastor well in advance. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise in need of the ministry of the Church, let us know. Call the church office during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✦ We mean for PRIVATE CONFESSION to be available as often as you need. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: [gp Fryer@gmail.com](mailto:gp Fryer@gmail.com) or [ceafryer@gmail.com](mailto:ceafryer@gmail.com).
- ✦ LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR THE SICK is available. Again, simply contact Pastor Fryer.
- ✦ FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: There is a long line of Christians, both rich and poor, who have disciplined themselves to budget a portion of their income, put it into an offering envelope first thing, and give it to the church. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer live by that tradition and commend it to you. Online giving is also available through our website, or by following this QR code with your phone camera:

