

# The Christmas Eve Family Service

## HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II



**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**  
**2:00 pm**

**EMMANUEL**  
Episcopal Church  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



CONNECT  
WORSHIP  
SERVE  
CREATE

**Welcome to Emmanuel Episcopal Church. We are glad you joined us today!**

*Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you here. We welcome everyone to join and participate fully in worship. The bulletin should contain all you need to participate in worship. Text the congregation reads aloud is **printed in bold**. This symbol ☒ denotes the appropriate time to make the sign of the cross upon yourself, if it is your custom.*

*Mask-wearing is optional. The rear pews are designated for socially-distanced seating for those who wish. Please sanitize your hands as you enter and immediately before Communion.*

## THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

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Following Advent, a time of hope and preparation, the Christmas season is a joyful celebration of our Lord's nativity. During this time, we especially remember that God loved all of creation so much that God took on human form to set in motion the plan of salvation. Jesus truly became Emmanuel, meaning "God with us."

The season runs for 12 days, concluding on January 5<sup>th</sup>, the eve of Epiphany.



*Please note that this service is being livestreamed and recorded.  
Videos may be found on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website.*

## Words of Welcome

*Please stand for the processional hymn*

**Processional Hymn • Hymnal '82 #83 (all verses)**

***O Come all Ye Faithful***

1. 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;

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

2. God from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten  
Son of God the Father;

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
glory in the highest;

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

4. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

5. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

## The Nativity

***Celebrant*** This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us way.

***Please be seated.***

***Narrator*** The little town we seek is in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family gathering to break bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of bread."

In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat.

Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary cow leans and rests after a hard day's plowing in the fields. And I believe there are some sheep there too. Where are all our animals? Let's get them up here!

All is still and quiet in the little town.

**Song • Hymnal '82 #79 (verse 1 only)**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

*Children bring forward the animal figurines*

**Narrator** As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago.

They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax.

But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room at the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

**Song • Hymnal '82 #102 (verse 1 only)**

***Once in Royal David's City***

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

*Children bring forward the Mary and Joseph figurines*

**Narrator** Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that his father has filled with straw.

**Song • LEVAS #27 (verse 1 only)**

***Away in a Manger***

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*Children bring forward the baby Jesus figurine*

**Narrator** In the hills outside of Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter: the faces of angels.



The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly: “Do not be afraid! Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared with all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord.”

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and goodwill to all people, everywhere.” Where are our angels now?

**Song • Hymnal '82 #96 (verse 1 only)**

*Angels we have heard on high*

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Children bring forward the Angel figurine*

**Narrator** The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the middle of all that love. Where are all our shepherds?

**Song • Hymnal '82 #109 (verse 1 only)**

*The first Nowell*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

*Children bring forward the Shepherd figurines*

**Narrator** Everyone is here – almost! But now - three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry kings, wise ones called Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

**Song • Hymnal '82 #128 (verse 1 only)**

*We three kings*

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Children bring forward the King figurines*

**Narrator** The kings' journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

So tonight we have all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come throughout the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us. And tonight we sing and pray our way into the Mystery of Christmas, for this night is holy and filled with overflowing silence.

**Song • Hymnal '82 #111 (all verses)**

*Silent night*

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## **The Peace**

*Please stand as you are able.*


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

*People*          And also with you.

*The people greet one another with a sign of welcome and God's love.*

## **Welcome & Announcements**


*Please be seated.*




1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!

# We Gather at God's Table

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*All are invited to stand.*

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**All:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
✠Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

*All:* AMEN.

*Celebrant:* And now, in the words that Jesus taught us, we pray,

*All:* 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Celebrant:* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People:* We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

*Celebrant:* This is God's table. Jesus is the host. We are the guests. Share in God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

*We are receiving both bread and wine at Communion. Please sanitize your hands prior to coming forward. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. The consecrated wine will be distributed in a single-use compostable cup (to drink or intinct), so please pick one up from the table on your way to the altar rail. The cup can be discarded on the other table to be reverently rinsed out. If you do not wish to receive, you are invited to cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like a blessing, which will be delivered without touch.*

# Communion Hymn • Hymnal '82 #89

*It came upon the midnight clear*

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.



## Post-Communion Prayer

*Enriching our Worship, volume 1*

*All are invited to stand.*

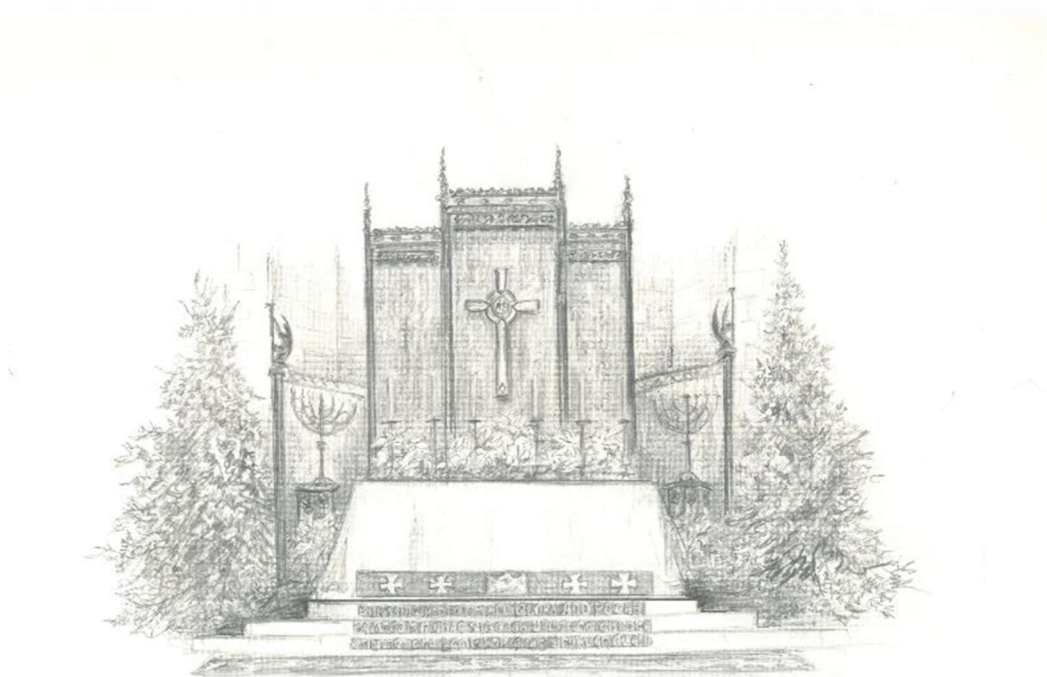
*Celebrant and People:*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Blessing

*Celebrant:* This Holy night, let the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor enlighten you, the strength of the Mighty God empower you, the love of the Everlasting Father enfold you, and the peace of the Prince of Peace be with you; and the ✠blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this night and always.

*All:* Amen.



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -

2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our

\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - every heart pre - pare him room, and

songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -

fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far and

na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture

peat the sound - ing joy, and re - peat the sound - ing

as the curse is found, far as the curse is

won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.

joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

found, far as, far as the curse is found.

love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Vom Himmel hoch*  
**Anton Wilhelm Leupold (1868-1940)**

### **Christmas Music and Floral Dedications Given to the Glory of God and ...**

*In memory of their parents Gardner and Margaret Moon and their brother Michael Moon*  
from Toni, Kerry, Melissa & Chris

*In memory of Bradford Robert Caldwell*  
from Steve, Marty, Kurt & Julia Caldwell

*In memory of James McVicker*  
from Kevin McVicker

*In memory of our parents, Francis & Phyllis Anscombe and Kazys & Valerie Valeika*  
from Elizabeth & Matt Valeika

*In memory of Carolyn and Michael Wilson, and Gil Piker*  
with love, Helen and Barbara

*In memory of Dennis Radatz, Clifford Radatz, Loretta Radatz, Marvin Raatz, Juliana Raatz, and Jeanine Watrous*  
from Susan Radatz

*In memory of Thomas James Stephen Sharkey*  
from The Sharkey family

*In loving memory of Dominick & Margaret La Rose, Melody Lord, Timothy Kilbride, Elizabeth Wrobel, Dr. Peter Rooney, Dr. & Mrs. James Rooney, Michael Zuffante, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wiedrich, Dr. & Mrs. William Cernock, Josh Staniloff, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Long, Father & Mrs. Harry White, Charles Schmidt, family, friends, loved ones, in profound gratitude for the continuing blessings/miracles in our daily lives, and through the Birth/Celebration of the Spotless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.*  
from Judith A. La Rose

*In memory of David Clark and Jeremy Coutre', and in thanksgiving for the community at Emmanuel*  
from Diane Clark-Coutre

*In memory of Stanley Christo Bartkus*  
from Raymond T. Burkhardt

*In memory of Edith Henderson, Lawrence & Sarah Coffee*  
from Bill, Margaret & Spencer Coffee

*In memory of Pat Jones "Pat Pat"*  
from Alli & Adam Hofferica & family

*In memory of Geraldine Hampton Jacobs*  
from Karel Jacobs

*In memory of Anthony & Margery Longo and Pennington & Rosemary Warter and in thanksgiving for our growing family*  
from Penny & Matt Longo

*In honor of the birth of our daughter, Madison Autumn Yochem, and in memory of Mike Anderson & Clara Gorek*  
Love, Dave & Michelle Yochem

*In thanksgiving for our Emmanuel Community*

*In memory of Frances Albarello and Jeanne O'Brien*

*In memory of Charles & Wilma Hess*

*In celebration of Patricia Dejmak-Crotty and Maria L. Woods* from Paula Dejmak Woods & Joe Woods

*In thanksgiving for the birth of my granddaughter, Madison Autumn Yochem* from Carol Anderson

*In celebration of our family: Emily, Grace, Andrew, Joey, Megan, and Matthew*

from Susan Valentine & Joe Howard

*In memory of Roy Sexton*

from Anita Sexton

*In memory of Pete, Duff, James Duff, Brenda Rezmer, Brenda Zwaldo, Gene Zwaldo, and in celebration of Katerine Raftery*

from John & Christiaan Raftery

*Additional gifts of celebration from the following:* Marie & Harry Narvaez, Christal & Drew Beyer,

Ashley & Dedra Bagby, Stephanie & Nicholas Skertich, Kelly & Mike Cummings, Charlotte

Niedzielski, and Andrea Bial Szyperski & Paul Szyperski



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## THE TIMES: SPECIAL MIDWEEK EDITION

### Today, Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>

- 2:00pm, Family Service
- 10:30pm, Carol Singing
- 11:00pm, Candlelight Service with choir, special musicians

### Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

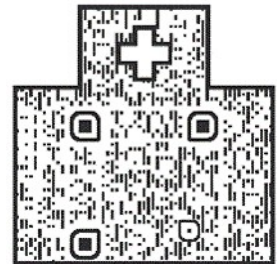
- 9:00am, Christmas Day Quiet Service

### Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00am, Holy Eucharist Rite II (no music)
- 10:00am, Holy Eucharist Rite II (with music)

**Christmas Birthdays:** Nanette Combs, Liam Waltz, Diane Coutre-Clark, Rachel Weaver-Rivera, Char Ekroth, Marc O'Brien

**In our prayers:** Tracy, Jaylen, Pete, Barb, David, Chris, Jane, Linda, Steven, Theresa, Bernadette, Gene, Christina, Leslie, Mick, Sandy, Judy, Marie, Janelle, Robert, Erin, Michael, Claire, Jeanine, Jimmy, Natalie, Colleen, Jeff, Kurt, Mike & Renee





### Weekly Worship Schedule

Tuesdays	at 7:30am	Contemplative Prayer (online)
Thursdays	at 7:30am	Contemplative Prayer (online)
	at 8:00pm	Compline (online)
Sundays	at 8:00am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (without music)
	at 10:00am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music)

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. David Jackson	Rector	revdave@eeclg.org
The Rev. William Rinkus	Deacon	dnbill@eeclg.org
Mr. Richard Spantikow	Organist & Music Director	music@eeclg.org
Mrs. AnnLaura Tapia	Parish Administrator	admin@eeclg.org
Mr. Clarence Johnson	Sexton	

### Wardens & Vestry

Dan Mottl, *Senior Warden* Cary Zaras, *Junior Warden*  
Mary Pat Anderson, Cliff Egel, Marc O'Brien, Drew Beyer, Jake Goes, Marie Navarez, Dave Knecht, Chris Raferty, Ron Throckmorton, *Members*

### Serving Today

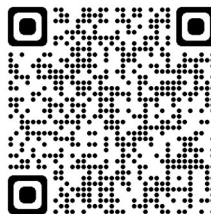
Abby & Casey Stahulak, *Narrators* All teams of our Altar Guild  
Brian Stahulak & Matt Longo, *Ushers* Stacy Jackson, *Livestream Operator*

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