



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

December 17, 2023 9:15am

[www.immanuelfamily.com](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)

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*Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.*

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*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Call to Advent"

Choir

L: We gather today. **C: It is time to worship!**

L: We listen for God **C: It is time to hear!**

L: We receive God's grace. **C: It is time to be loved!**

L: We leave in peace. **C: It is time to serve others!**

L: As we wait for Jesus' arrival, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is already here in this time and place.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Pastor Zech, Mindy, and Zoey Anderson

GATHERING HYMN: "**Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**"

#254 ELW

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: People of God, when we think that we have nowhere left to turn, we can always turn to God. Whether we feel frozen or are rushing with no time to rest, whether it feels like life is happening to us too quickly or like our lives will never change, God is with us. For God, there is always time for forgiveness. We trust God, and we confess our sins together.

*Brief pause*

L: Holy One,

**C: We have not stayed awake. We have missed you when you appeared in our neighbors, in strangers half a world away, in the suffering planet. We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us and assumed we were powerless to mend the breaches in our world. Sometimes, we even gave up on your mercy, justice, and love. God, is it too late for us? Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts. Tear open the heavens and heal what we have done. Amen.**

L: People of God,

God's judgment is certain, and God's forgiveness is lightning fast. Hear this good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven. Forgiveness gives us the courage we need. Wherever we wait for God's time to come, we will witness wonders. **Amen.**

### 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *The Lord's promise to David*

HYMN: Psalm: **"My Soul Proclaims your Greatness"** #251

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27 *The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Veni Emmanuel" Bell Choir

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 *The angel appears to Mary*

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.** Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON / NOISY OFFERING FOR FC SCHOOLS LUNCH PROGRAM

SERMON Pastor Zech

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Canticle of the Turning"** #723

APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *L: Hurry, God. C: Receive our prayers.*

<b>Ruby Sue</b> Albertsen	<b>Parker</b> Farland	<b>Tim</b> Schmidt
<b>Kristy</b> Anderson	<b>Joyce</b> Kasper	<b>Lowell</b> Solberg
<b>family of Hazel</b> Barloon	<b>baby Mia</b> Madrigal	<b>Jennie</b> Spencer
<b>Liam</b> Bartleson	<b>Chris</b> McCormick	<b>Marie</b> Thayer
<b>family of Marilyn</b> Brady	<b>Jill</b> (Lewison) Nedved	<b>Missionary Karen</b> Anderson
<b>Hayden</b> Despenas	<b>family of Connie</b> Nyhus	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes</b>

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.*

OFFERING: "The Yearning" Choir

OFFERTORY: **"We are an Offering"** #692

## OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, for the time we have, we say: **Thank you.**

For the gifts we offer, we say: **Thank you.**

For the chance to help others, we say: **Thank you.**

For the people whose lives will be better because of these gifts, we say: **Thank you.**

For the ways you are changing the world, we say: **Thank you.**

We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help.

**Amen.**

Holy, Holy, Holy  
Words of Institution  
Lord's Prayer

**COMMUNION:**

<b>"Lord of All Hopefulness"</b>	#765
<b>"Savior of the Nations Come"</b>	#263

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: **“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”** #836

## BLESSING

DISMISSAL: As you leave this place, remember whether you are waiting for a new beginning or just waiting for something to end, God is sustaining you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**Today's worship** is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast is given in memory of Myrtle Bartleson (Dec. 21 birthday) from Alice Lewison & Joanne Bartleson.

**Poinsettias given:**

In memory of Patricia Bendickson from Tori, Ryan, Rylie & Nevaeh Eastvold

In memory of Marion Eastvold from Wayne & Marcia Eastvold and family (2)

**Worship Participants:**

Ushers: Jim Lund, Gary McCarthy, Tina Berg

Greeter: Shirley Rollefson

Assisting Minister: Kathy McEnelly

Sound/Video Techs: Bruce Mielke, Dave Midtgaard

## Communion Set Up: Tasha Banta

Communion Servers: Carolynn Korth, Katherine Squier

Altar Care: Janette Neuman

Song Leaders: Steve & Audrey Olmstead

Scripture Reader: Ken Hansen

Piano: Linda Ferjak, Riley Walton

Choir Director: Linda Ferjak

Bell Choir Director: Ruth Melby

### **FYI: Immanuel's November General Offerings:**

November 2023 General Offerings: \$53,608.32

Monthly Budget: \$41,249.75

YTD Actual 2023: \$405,777.37

November 2022 General Offerings: \$40,197.28

YTD Actual 2022: \$398,611.23