From: Immanuel on the Green <rector-immanuel@comcast.net>
To: jmea55 <jmea55@aol.com>
Subject: The Curate: A Christmas Message, and more!
Date: Fri, Dec 20, 2019 7:30 pm

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**Christmas Services**

**Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve**
4:30pm: Christmas Music & Carols
5pm: Family Eucharist with the Ross Treble Choir

10:30pm: Christmas Music & Carols
11pm: Choral Eucharist with incense
Malcolm: Missa ad Praesepio, McDowell: Gaude et laetare, sung by the Immanuel Choir

**Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day**
10am: Sung Eucharist with incense
Plainsong: Missa Marialis

**Sunday, January 5, The Epiphany**
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Visititation by the Rt. Rev’d Kevin Brown, Bishop of Delaware
Sung Eucharist and Baptism

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**The Curate:**
December 2019

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

Beloved in Christ:

At the very heart of Christmas is the message that everyone is valued, no one is abandoned, and none is outside the reach of God's love. The Incarnation (God becoming human) makes us one in spirit with God and each other and reminds us that there is a place for all within the heart of God. Any hope in this world to divide humanity is always challenged by the message of Christmas which invites us to a common place where no one is separated from God's love. Christmas – the mystery of the Incarnation – compels us to embrace the knowledge that God is indeed interested in us, cares for us and wants to set us free so that we might live without fear.

During this holy season, I invite each of you to participate in one or more of the Christmas liturgies offered at Immanuel and I encourage you to ask yourself, how does Christmas help us to re-imagine the Word made flesh? How do we celebrate Christmas and then allow it to live through us? How do we learn the stories and teachings of Jesus and then embody them in our world? How do we, like Joseph, protect and nurture the way of God? How do we, like Mary, say yes to God's love, no matter what?

Christmas is the fulfilment of the expectation that God is with us and in us – that we are blessed by Him and we are called and given power to be a sign of hope in this broken world. So my brothers and sisters - Come, let us adore Him!

With Christmastide blessings of joy at the coming of the Christ-child I am,
Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev’d Christopher P. Keene
Rector

Please note: 6pm Mass, Thursday December 26th, is cancelled.

LITURGY AND MUSIC NOTES
For many people, attending a beautiful Christmas Eve service is a regular Christmas tradition. But even for folks who would never dream of missing the seasonal decorations and familiar carols, going to church is usually just one event among a profusion of parties, concerts, shopping trips and family gatherings. For the musicians who provide all that seasonal beauty, however, Christmas is an altogether different experience.

Take another look at the schedule of services that appears elsewhere on this page. You'll plan to arrive by the time the service begins, of course—maybe 15 minutes ahead of time if you're picky about where you sit. But choir members will have arrived a full hour (or more) earlier than you, an hour they'll devote to organizing a frightening amount of music and paper, getting into vestments, and reviewing the “order of battle” for one of the more complex liturgies of the year. And that's after having devoted many, many hours to learning all that music, at home as well as in formal rehearsals. Not only that; many of those singers will be attending (and singing for) all three scheduled Christmas services—something that was considered a matter of course for practicing Christians just a few generations ago, bizarre as it sounds to contemporary sensibilities.

But we musicians love it and wouldn't have it any other way, however much we may fuss about all the extra time and effort that has to be shoehorned into our lives—lives that are just as crazy busy as everyone else's. We've found it's well worth the effort, to have the gift of time to immerse ourselves in the true glories of this season, and the privilege to be at the “center of the action” on one of the Church's most inspiring occasions of worship.

The singers of Immanuel's Choirs wish you a blessed Christmas—and they'll be doing their best to provide a generous share of that blessing.

- Jack Burnam

The Vestry met for its regularly scheduled meeting on December 18, and the following topics were discussed:

- Advent Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageant, and the Holiday Dinner were all well attended, and an enjoyable time was had by all! Thank you to all who helped to put together a wonderful evening.
- The 2020 budget was discussed, and a vote approving the 2020 budget was put on hold until all pledges have been received. There are about 20 pledges that have not yet been made. It is never to late to pledge. Thank you to all who have made their pledges.
- If you have not yet pledged, you can pledge online at https://www.immanuelonthegreen.org/Stewardship/pledging.html. Go to the bottom of the page and click on Online Pledging Form. You can also print out the pledge form and mail it to the office or put it in the collection plate on Sunday. Making your pledge
online does not mean you have to donate online. There is a separate form to donate online: [https://www.simplechurchgiving.net/App/Giving/immanuelonthegreen](https://www.simplechurchgiving.net/App/Giving/immanuelonthegreen). The Time and Talent Stewardship form is also available on the pledge page.

- Nominations are being taken for the next class of the Vestry. There will be three open positions along with a warden position. Nomination forms need to be in by January 8 so the Vestry can approve the roster of candidates at its next meeting. See Fr. Chris, the wardens, or a Vestry member for more information.

- Bishop Brown will be joining us on Sunday, January 5, for his annual visit. Due to his visit, there will just be one service that day at 10 am. We will have a small reception after mass in the Academy. If anyone would like to help with the reception, see Fr. Chris. There will be an opportunity after the reception to talk to the Bishop about our efforts in inviting the community to Immanuel and making them feel welcome.

- The Reconstruction Trust was created in 1984 to support charitable outreach from income earned on excess contributions that were received to rebuild the church after the 1980 fire. The Vestry discussed a resolution to reallocate income from the trust for charitable outreach and ongoing maintenance of the church building. See the separate article with the complete proposed resolution.

- Geri Krolin-Taylor

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**Reconstruction Trust Resolution**

The Reconstruction Trust was created in 1984 to support charitable outreach from income earned on excess contributions that were received to rebuild the church after the 1980 fire. The terms of the trust can "be altered by 2/3 vote of the Vestry...and also 2/3 vote of a subsequent Vestry taken within one year of the first prevailing vote to amend, alter, or revoke." The Vestry discussed a resolution to reallocate income from the trust for charitable outreach and ongoing maintenance of the church building. The complete resolution is as follows.

Whereas the Reconstruction Trust was established by the Vestry of Immanuel on the Green in 1984 to support charitable outreach giving from the income earned from the nearly $130,000 in excess contributions to the rebuilding of the church after the fire of 1980; and

Whereas that declaration of trust stipulates that the trust can be amended by a two-thirds vote of two consecutive vestries; and

Whereas the declaration of trust stipulates that no “vote shall be taken to amend, alter, or revoke this Trust without two weeks written notice of same to all members of the Vestry;” and

Whereas the current Vestry of Immanuel on the Green has identified ongoing maintenance expenses not considered by the Vestry that established the Reconstruction Trust; and

Whereas current pledge income and building and maintenance endowment funds are insufficient to meet the maintenance needs of the church building; and

Whereas the original contributions to Immanuel on the Green that were used to establish the Reconstruction Trust were intended for the restoration of the church building; therefore

Be it resolved that:

1. The Reconstruction Trust should be amended to stipulate that the income from the Reconstruction Trust should annually be distributed in the following manner: one-third to support charitable outreach identified by the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry; and two-thirds to support the ongoing maintenance of the church building.
2. The annual income should be calculated as a 4% drawdown on the earnings of the fund based upon a three-year trailing average.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Thank you to everyone who participated in, and attended, this year's Christmas Pageant! A fantastic time was had by all!

*Photos from Barry Hutton and Gina Tarburton*
Goody Care Packages For Deployers

The outreach project to support the 200+ Delaware National Guard members deployed continues at Immanuel. A number of Immanuilians have donated care and hygiene packages for our Delaware neighbors, who are deployed to Southeast Asia in support of ongoing military operations.

These deployed soldiers are grateful and appreciative of the support they get from us. Our initiative “Treats for Troops” provides both “goodies” that remind them of home, such as Tasty Cake and Wawa products. We are also providing personal hygiene items that are hard to come by in the area that they are deployed. We are gathering up the first package and sending it to them with our prayers and blessings. Donations will be accepted through January 2020.

A complete list of the items may be found here and on the church porch. Donations may be dropped off there or at the Parish Office. For any questions, feel free to reach out to Bob Irwin at rjirwin09@verizon.net or at 302-354-4636. Let’s all continue to support our deployed troops.

Food Bank News

After a month or so of not really needing anything for the Food
Closet, the stock levels have diminished for a few items. If you are out shopping and would be inclined, please pick up the items listed below. Contributions can be left at the Academy at Coffee Hour, or at the office during the week - we are no longer collecting food on the church porch.

Remember, these are NEEDS and it would be appreciated that you only purchase items from this list. Also be mindful of the item sizes, bigger is not always better.

- Pasta and Sauce - no elbows please
- Rice A Roni
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Entrees - Chili or Stew
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Crackers - Ritz or Saltines
- Instant Potatoes
- Unsweetened dry cereal - cheerios, corn flakes, etc
- Instant oatmeal packets

As always, your donations keep this Mission viable. Thanks for your Support.

Gary Burgmuller
NCUMC Food Closet Coordinator

**Save these Dates**: Don't miss these upcoming Special Musical Events at Immanuel on the Green!

**February 8 - 9: Visiting Scholar Weekend with Dr. Esther Lightcap Meek** - “The Epiphany of Beauty: Where Art and Faith Converge” is a unique weekend-long event featuring Visiting Scholar Esther Meek, Professor of Philosophy at Geneva College, exploring the connections between music, theology, and liturgy. Not to be missed!

**Available Flower Memorial Dates**

Memorials can be a Sunday closest to a set date (such as a birthday, anniversary, or passing), or a specific Sunday in the month (such as the 1st Sunday in October), and can be recurring or one time happenings. Please contact the office or Mark if you would like to talk about an offering.

The following Sundays do not have dedicated flower offerings:

2019
- December 29
2020
- January 12
- February 9
- March 1
The parish office will be closed between December 25-January 1.

**SERVICES AT IMMANUEL**

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**Schedule of Services**
Immanuel's sense of community is firmly grounded in our weekly gathering for corporate worship. You are an essential member of that Community! Do plan to join us every week for one (or more) of these services:

Sunday  
- 8am - Said Mass  
- 10am - Sung Mass  
- 7pm - Compline

Wednesday  
- 9:30am - Said Mass *(postponed until further notice)*

Thursday  
- 6pm - Said Mass

**Compline continues every Sunday at 7 p.m.**

Compline continues every Sunday night at 7 p.m. This brief service of prayer and readings is the final service in the monastic daily prayer cycle. It is less than 10 minutes long, and includes time for private prayer in your pew before and after the service. If you have not yet joined us for Compline, please consider making this a part of your spiritual discipline.

A new signup has been posted with dates available through the spring. If you would like to lead Compline and/or set up the church by lighting 60+ candles, please use this link to do so. Questions? Ask Jo Harney at jo.w.harney@gmail.com.

**Sign up here**

**Large print bulletins are available.**

**December birthdays**
- Week 1 - John Monaghan, Kay Bartlett, Allison Tobey  
- Week 2 - Camille Foster  
- Week 3 - Liz Plant, Thomas Tear, Jo Harney, Judy Upshure  
- Week 4 - Diane Meyers, Thomas Plant  
- Week 5 - Matt Kinservik

**November Anniversaries**
- Week 4 - Jago and Liz Plant
STAY CONNECTED

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram, for memes like this one:

Me waiting for the coming of the Lord

Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our website.

Immanuel on the Green | 100 Harmony Street, New Castle, DE 19720

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