

December 18, 2022



Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, Lord Jesus! - As Immanuel

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to
WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Current Series: Come, Lord Jesus

The Latin word *adventus* means “coming.” The last words in Scripture are “Come, Lord Jesus!” So, we enter a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End—capital “E”—when Jesus Christ will come and destroy this sin-broken world.

Advent is necessary to prepare us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus!

Today's Focus: Come, Lord Jesus! - As Immanuel

Man can do nothing to overcome the mess that sin makes. Therefore, the Church prays that God would come in power to clean up the mess for us. Since the Garden of Eden, there has only ever been one plan to do that: God would take on flesh and blood. To do what mankind could not do—clean up the mess of sin—God became man. When you look into the manger, what do you see? A baby? Yes. But, more. That is Immanuel, “God-with-us.” The Son of God became Mary's son, so that he could do for us what we could not do for ourselves. God is with us to save us from the mess.



ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a brand new mission church on Chattanooga's east side. We are funded by and a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada.

Living Hope succeeds in its mission when hope forever in Jesus brings hope for every day in life.

For more on our mission, background, and beliefs just visit our website: livinghopechatt.com


ABOUT WORSHIP

Worship at Living Hope is designed to fill you with hope! The message you hear at Living Hope will center you on your Savior, Jesus, and what he's done for you. Worship isn't just about filling up God with praise. Worship is all about *God filling you* with good news!

We follow a basic order of service, called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news (gospel) about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include participation of those in attendance.

- Feel free to get up to use restrooms **at any time** during the service.
- **Restrooms** are located around the corner to your right.
- A **nursery** is available for small children out the left-hand side of the worship space. Just look for the **Kid's Zone sign** just past the info corner by the main entrance. Feel free to use that space during worship. The service will be livestreamed into the room. The nursery will be **staffed during the sermon** if parents wish to drop off children.
- **Kid activity bags** are available and will be sanitized each week.
- Please fill out a **connection card**. It's our best way to stay in touch with you and thank you for joining us today! You'll find connection cards on the table at the entrance.
- Everything you need to enjoy today's worship will be found in this Worship Folder. **Songs** will also be found on the screen.

Show friends where you are—check in!

 /livinghopechatt

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Advent Gathering Song

Cantor sings 1st refrain then the congregation sings the refrain on repeat as the cantor sings the verses.

James J. Chepponis

Gently
mp



Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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1. God will give us a sign, so...
2. For a child from the virgin will...
3. And his name will be Jesus, so...

Music continues to play as the call to worship and confession is spoken.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION + ABSOLUTION

M: Prepare the way for the Lord,

C: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

M: Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

C: And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

M: Dear friends, one day Christ will come in glory to deliver his people. Therefore, let us prepare our hearts to meet him by humbly seeking his forgiveness.

C: Merciful Lord, shine your light into the shadows of our hearts.

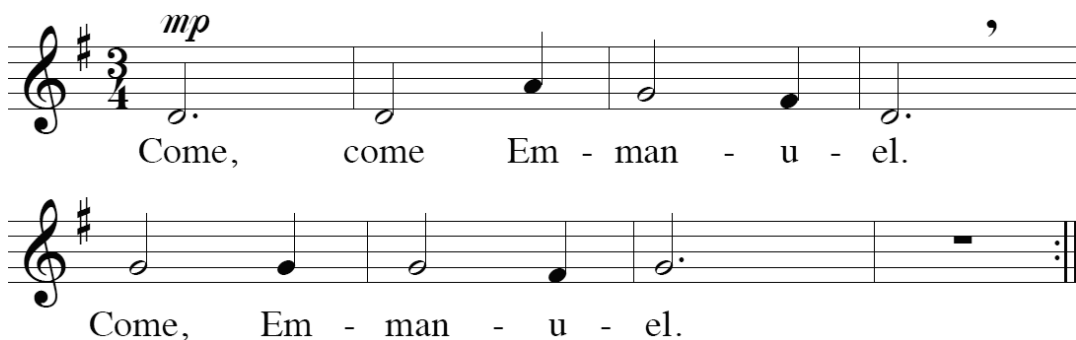
For we have sinned and have failed to honor you as Immanuel.

Chase away our darkness and fill us with your light.

Trusting in you we pray: Lord, have mercy on us.

M: In Christ Jesus, the glory of the Lord has been revealed and all people have seen the salvation of our God. With his perfect life, Christ kept the law in our place. With his innocent death, he paid the price of our redemption. Christ now comes to you through his words of light and life: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



4. Oh the King of glory shall...
5. He will save us from sin, so...
6. For the Son of God will...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

NIV

M: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

C: that the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is this King of glory?

C: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

M: Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up you ancient doors,

C: that the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is this King of glory?

C: The Lord Almighty — he is the King of glory.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

NIV

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward into the front row for the children's message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

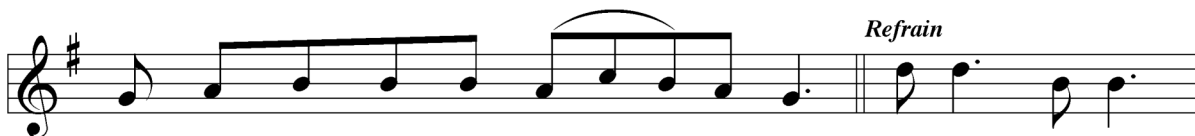
SERMON HYMN—**Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel** CW23



- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
- 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
- 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
- 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

Please stand

The Gospel centers our worship as it shares with us the good news about Christ.
We stand out of respect for our Savior as we hear about his words and deeds

SERMON

Mathew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

NIV

M: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to Christ.

Please be seated

GOD IS WITH US TO SAVE US FROM THE MESS

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. In what ways is Matthew's Christmas account so different from Luke's?
2. Jesus was born into a _____ world under _____ circumstances.
3. What did Joseph decide to do about the situation he found himself in?
4. Why do we over-sentimentalize Christmas? Why do we love Christmas nostalgia so much?
5. What's the cause of the mess we're in?
6. What does the baby in the manger prove?
7. What does the name "Jesus" mean?
8. What does the name "Immanuel" mean?
9. How did Joseph now prepare for the Savior's birth fearlessly?
10. What are some of the other messy events surrounding the Savior's life?
11. Why will your Christmas be blessed no matter what?

Sermon notes: _____

TRUTH — God's ability to clean things up is infinitely greater than our ability to mess things up.

Please stand

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Christians have used the Apostles' Creed since the second century to unite themselves together and to obey God's invitation to "confess with our mouth and believe with our hearts" (Romans 10:9).

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again

from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING

We collect offerings out of thanks for what God has done for us so that we can support gospel work here and around the world. You can give using the envelope provided in your worship folder. You'll also find instructions there for how to give online if you'd prefer. Thank you for supporting our gospel ministry! If you are a guest with us don't feel obligated to contribute. This service is our free gift to you!

Praying the prayer of the church is a time when we can pray for people in all kinds of circumstances and for the work of God's church on earth.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

When Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray he gave them the words of this prayer. (Matt. 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) Since Jesus advises we pray this way, we say "The Lord's Prayer" every Sunday.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The historical "blessing of Aaron" (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: AMEN.

CLOSING SONG—Great Are You Lord

VERSE—CHORUS—VERSE—CHORUS—BRIDGE 2x—CHORUS 2x

Verse



1. You give life, You are love. You bring light to the dark - ness. You give



hope, You re - store ev - 'ry heart that is bro - ken.



And great are You, Lord. It's Your

Chorus



breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise. It's Your

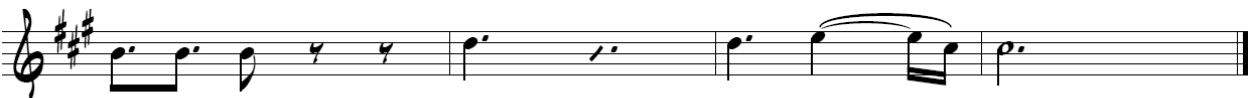


breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You on - ly.

Bridge



And all the earth will shout Your praise. Our hearts will cry, these



bones will sing, "Great are You Lord!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming services

Join Living Hope for Christmas Eve worship, a service with a meditative message and your favorite Christmas anthems. Then come back on Sunday, Christmas morning, for a service of lessons and carols.

A Savior is Born to Change the World - Saturday December 24 @ 6:30PM

A Savior is Born to Dwell Among Us - Sunday December 25 @ 10:00AM

Sunday Study and Sunday School

Sunday study for adults and Sunday school for children is on break until 2023.

Theology on Tap—on break until 2023

Theology on Tap will be done for the season since and will pick back up in Spring 2023.

End of Year Ministry Update

If you missed our latest ministry update that was held on December 4 you can listen to the update on our website. Just follow this link: <https://livinghopechatt.com/get-involved/ministry-updates>

Password for the page is: hopeforeveryday

Connection Envelopes

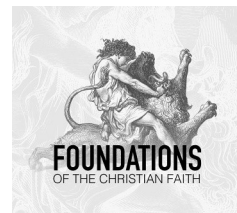
We'd love to get your valuable feedback on our worship service today. If this is your first time at Living Hope we also want the opportunity to give you a gift to say "thanks for being our guest!" You can place your connection envelopes in the offering plate as it passes or in the basket located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Also feel free to just hand it to pastor.

Kid bags

If you could kindly return the children's activity bags we'd appreciate it. We'll use them for future services. Thank you!

Foundations Bible Study

We all want answers to life's biggest questions. But the process for finding them often seems a bit intimidating. Where do I even start? How do I read the Bible? Will I even understand it? There's no better place to start than by jumping into a Foundations Class. If you're interested in membership here at Living Hope this is our "next step" class, but even if you're not interested in membership you'll find it to be a good overview of what God has to say to you in his Word.



If you're interested in attending the course just check the box on your connection envelope that says "I'd like to attend a membership class." Class times are flexible and can be done in small groups or one-on-one with pastor. **We have 2 group classes in session and can start one on one courses any time!**

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett + David Dyer + Mitchel and Jess Beckman

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

December 23—Terry Lundquist

December 24—Jess Beckman

Anniversary Blessings:

December 19—First worship service in our new facility (2021)

We pray for the following members, family, and friends:

We pray for Mary Snyder who is stable and in good spirits but still in the hospital receiving treatment for Miller-Fisher syndrome. A rare syndrome that affects the eye muscles. The effects are not permanent and will clear up with time, so we are thankful for a less severe diagnosis than initially thought.

We continue to pray for Dee Butcher [Smith] suffering from a leg injury and recovering at home.

Service Teams — Today

Sunday Setup Team—Grimms, Melody Meyer
Snack Provider—Rick Falls, Don McCary
Ushers—Ken Bassett, Mitchell Beckman
Acolyte—Dagon Talley

Service Teams — Christmas Eve December 24

Setup Team—Thoms
Snack Provider—Thoms, Grimms, Bassetts
Ushers—Jim Smith, Bob Gorman
Acolyte—Gabe Amerson

Service Teams — Christmas Day December 25

Setup Team—Marshall
Ushers—Ken Bassett, Terry Lundquist
Acolyte—Lydia Dyer



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE for everyday!

Pastor Eric Melso

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