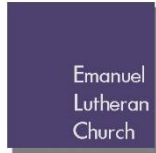


IN-PERSON and ONLINE



Emanuel Lutheran Church

A member of the New England Synod of the ELCA
(a "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation)

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 643-1193 Fax (860) 645-0830

www.emanuelmanchester.org



This worship service is broadcast live on Zoom, recorded and the full worship service is uploaded to YouTube. In alignment with our safe church policy and with recommendation from the ELCA, anytime children are present in front of the camera, the recording device will blur faces. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Joanna.

Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2025

4 PM

unto us a Child is born

*Please rise, in body or in spirit, at the points indicated by *.*

Christmas Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

O Holy Night

Combined Choirs

*Call to Worship

Pastor: God of light, God of birth, God of new beginnings, you are not far away.

All: That is why we come. That is why we wait. That is why we worship.

Pastor: The True Light has come into the world...

All: And his name is Jesus!

*Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

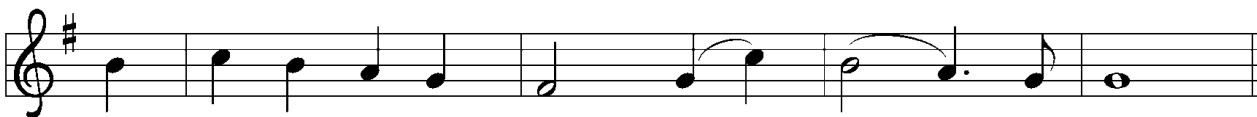


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

*Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

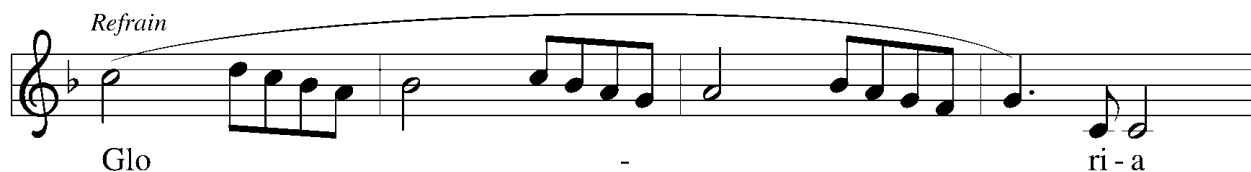
ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski

Sermon

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

***Apostles' Creed**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of the People

AM: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

To the words: "Hear us, O God.," the congregation responds: "Your mercy is great."

AM: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Offertory Music

Mary Did You Know?

Combined Choirs

***Offertory Prayer**

Pastor: God of glory, great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

*Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy



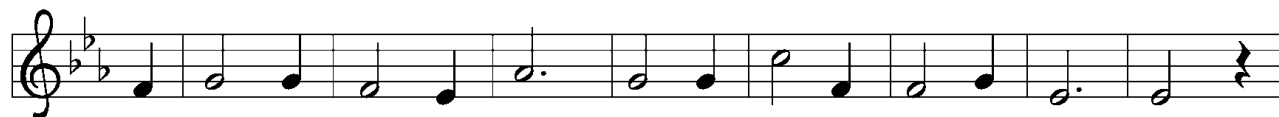
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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*The Words of Institution

(not printed)

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

All: Amen.

All are welcome to receive communion—if this is your first time receiving or your 500th time receiving. In this meal, Jesus meets us in and through the bread and wine. Communion will be offered in a continuous style in front of the altar. We'll commune with two lines simultaneously from both sides of the sanctuary, moving from the front to the back, you are invited to come forward to receive. You will receive a wafer. We have a gluten free option available. On each side, there will be a tray of cups of red wine and of white grape juice. After you drink the wine/juice, please dispose of your cup in the receptacles on the sides of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come forward, we are happy to bring communion to you. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymns

Jesus, Lamb of God



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

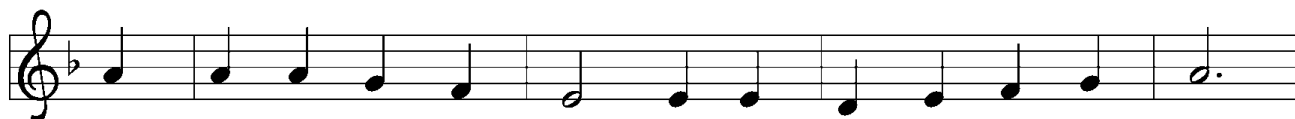
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O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

***Post Communion Prayer**

AM: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
 May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
 the mystery of your presence.
 Move us to discover the wonders of your love
 in the everyday moments of our lives,
 through Christ born in us.

All: Amen.

***Blessing**

Pastor: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One,
 abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

All: Amen.

We invite you to “light” your candle and join in singing Silent Night.

***Sending**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281



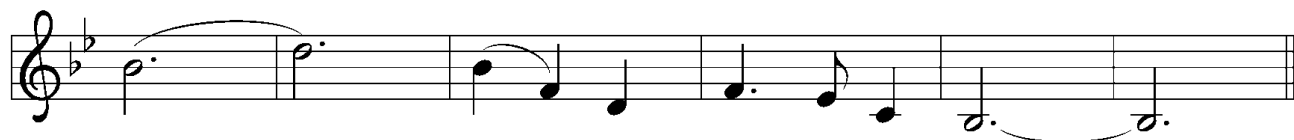
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

***Dismissal**

AM: Glory to God in the highest!

All: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

AM: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain standing for the singing of the Postlude—Hallelujah Chorus.

Postlude *Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah by George Frederick Handel

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world

Is become the kingdom of our Lord,

And of His Christ, and of His Christ;

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

And Lord of lords,

And He shall reign,

And He shall reign forever and ever,

King of kings, forever and ever,

And Lord of lords,

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever,

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign forever and ever,

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister: Bea Luciano

Ushers: Pat Nelson, Ann-Linda Bray, **2 volunteers needed**

Communion Assistants: Ann-Linda Bray, **1 volunteer needed**

Emanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff

Church Office: 860-643-1193

Joanna Hertzog Betkoski, Pastor
Bea Luciano, Field Education Student
Katie Kurlak, Director of Family Ministries
Kathy Hatch, Property Supervisor
Berk Little, Worship Support Specialist

Jeff Sirois, Director of Music
Anne Heinrich, Office Administrator
Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse
Barton Sattler, Treasurer
Kathy Rusch, Worship Support Specialist

Hearing Assistance devices are available in the lobby. Many people who have difficulty hearing, and even people attending worship who happen to sit in an audio “dead spot” in the sanctuary could benefit from using a Hearing Assistance device during the service. If you would like to give one a try, please ask an usher for assistance.

If you purchased a poinsettia this Christmas at Emanuel, you may take it home with you following worship today.

Please use the checklist on the clipboard located next to the lectern and mark next to your name that you took the poinsettia(s) that you ordered.

Emanuel worships at 10 AM on Sunday mornings, in-person, and live on Zoom. The services are recorded and later made available on YouTube and Facebook.

The Church Office will be CLOSED December 24, 2025 through January 1, 2026.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Reminder to Members and Friends of Emanuel

Emanuel will be closing its financial books for the year on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. If you want your donation to be credited to your account and included on your giving statement for this year, **we need to receive it by Sunday, December 28th.** Any donations received after this date will be posted in 2026. Thank you for your generosity and support!

QR Code and Prayer Requests

A QR code has been added to the front cover of the bulletin and on small cards placed in the pews of the sanctuary. If scanned, the code will take you directly to Emanuel’s secure donation page. Once you are on the donation page, you can choose to designate your donation to a specific fund or the General Fund. We wanted to give people the option to easily donate online at any time. On the backside of the QR Code card in the pew is also a form you can fill out for prayer requests. You can drop the card in the offering plate or leave it in the church office and Pastor Joanna will receive your request.

2025 Poinsettia Plants

Donor

The Farooque Family
George & Lynda Brown
Linda Eckblom
Berk & Lisa Little
John & Kim Boerner-Mercier
Joe & Teri Ferron

Donor

Mark & Kris Fournier

The Farooque Family
Rosemary Hokanson

The Polito Family

Linda Eckblom

Jodi Eskin
Betsy Grupe
Helen Johnson

Tom & Karen Reed and David Morsey

Rich Marsh
The McGrath Family

Norma Wirta
Wayne & Karen Kissman

Pam & Andy Clark
Marlene D'Addario

The Burkamp Family
John & Kim Boerner-Mercier

John & Nancy Whiton

In Honor of:

Joan McVey (Gram)
our families
my grandchildren
all our friends and families battling cancer
Tracy; Jaron & Rachel; Tobias; Travis, Kristen & Rayna
the birth of our granddaughter Windsor Rose Ferron
on June 18, 2025

In Memory of:

Joe Berneski
Mary & Ernest Duke
Dorothy & Albert Fournier
James McVey
Len Hokanson
Carol Anderson
Len Hokanson
Joseph Polito
Carol Anderson
Carl W. Eckblom
Loved Ones
Kenneth & Margaret McCurdy
Marian & Harrison Demgen
Bernie Johnson
Family & Friends
Stella & Joe Morsey (parents)
Mary & Martin Bartok (grandparents)
Eileen & Joe Colletti (sister and brother-in-law)
Doris & Ed Marsh
Reginald B. Christensen
Patrick & Jean McGrath
Harold & Glenna Christensen
Edward & Martha Siivonen and Gail Siivonen
Mark Thomason
Don Wirta
Edward & Elizabeth Walters
Frederic Werner, Emil Werner
Paul Kissman
Jim & Priscilla Clark
Dorothy & Frank D'Addario
Linda McGehan
Virginia Burkamp
Charles Boerner
John & Jennie Mercier
Len Johnson
Barbara & Bert Whiton

11:00 AM & 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Bulletins are given by Doris Johnson in loving memory of Len Johnson and in thankfulness for her caring family.