

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

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

December 7. 2025

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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude O Come O Come Emmanuel arr. by Tony Alonso Combined Choirs

*Advent Candle Lighting Peace Kate, Lucas & Diana Seyboth We Are Waiting for Jesus









Text: John Helgen, b. 1957 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Children are invited to attend Sunday School downstairs in the Sunday School/Youth Room.

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

whose home is heaven and earth,

whose salvation is sure.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

All: we confess that we look to ourselves

for the peace and security only you can provide.

We reach for swords and spears,

reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting

and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance,

and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Increase our trust in God's timing,

and awaken us to your advent among us,

that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Pastor: God judges us not as we deserve,

but according to God's own righteousness.

+ You are freed and forgiven,

saved by grace,

and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

ELW 254



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- child, and 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest thee. born to reign in thy gra-cious king-dom bring. us for - ev - er, now



Is -rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmonv, 1835

*Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Pastor:

Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you. All:

*Kyrie We will sing the Refrain, followed by verse 2, and end with the Refrain



*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and forever.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

*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: Matthew 3:1-12

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

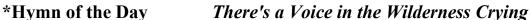
¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

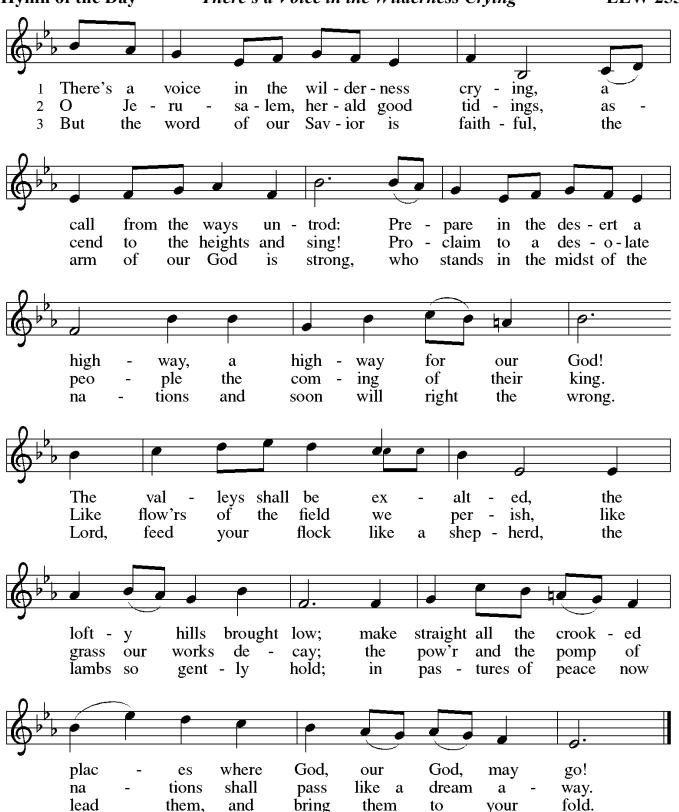
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Joanna Hertzog Betkoski







Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

*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: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your

promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

To the words: "God of grace," the congregation responds: "hear our prayer."

AM: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in

your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

All: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Offertory Music Dona Nobis Pacem by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Anthem Choir

*Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

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



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*The Words of Institution

(not printed)

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

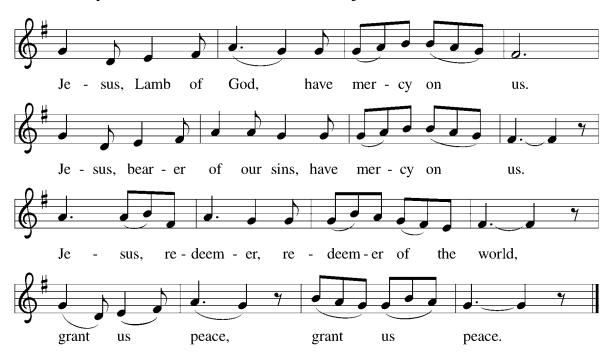
Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

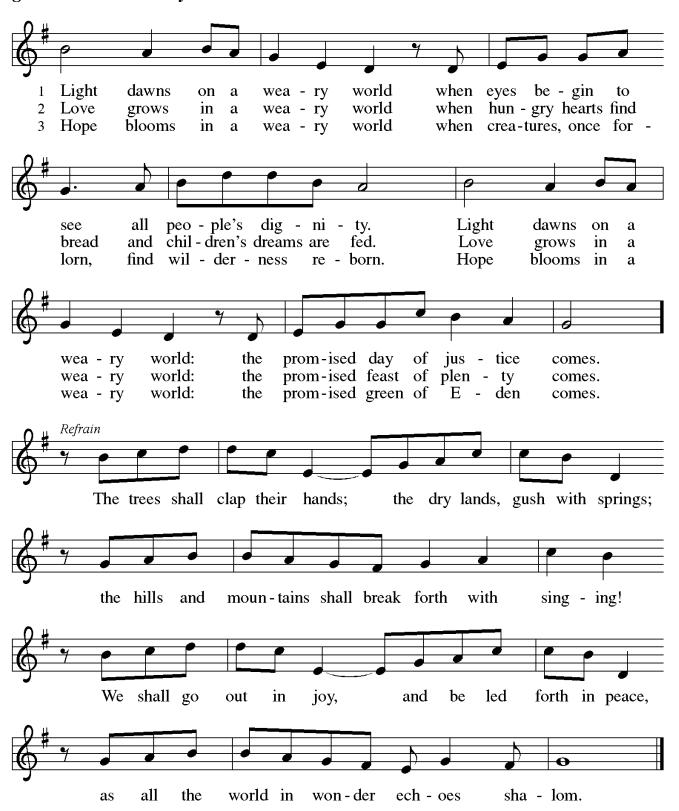
All: Amen.

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 as well as at the altar rail. We'll commune the right side first, moving to the left side, starting with the front pews and moving towards the back. If you would like to receive communion at the altar rail, do so by using the center steps. You are welcome to stand or kneel at the altar rail. Please wait until the group is blessed and dismissed before going back to your seat by using the side steps that lead to the side aisles. If you are receiving in front of the altar, when you come forward, you will receive a wafer. We have a gluten free option available. 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



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TÉMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Text: John Foley, sJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sJ

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Post Communion Prayer

AM: God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

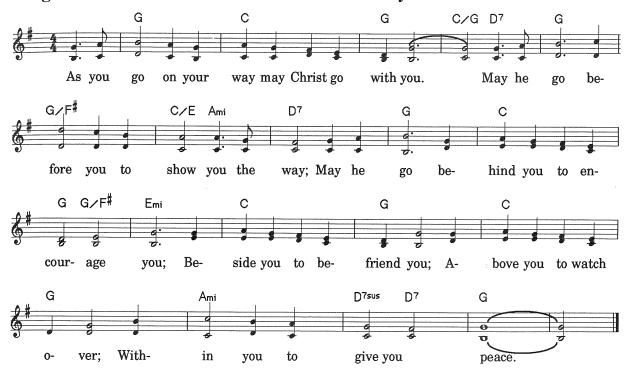
welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.



As You Go On Your Way



*Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Build Up, by Larry Olson and Hans Peterson

New Day Singers

If you would like Healing Prayer this morning, please approach the altar rail or the side pew by the ramp following the postlude.

Please join us for Coffee Hour downstairs in Luther Hall following worship.

All are welcome!

We are decorating the sanctuary for Christmas after worship today. All are welcome!

Advent Devotional Books are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary.

The "little white church" is out in the Narthex this morning to collect monetary donations for Seasonal Sharing.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister: Kim Boerner-Mercier

Ushers: Pat Nelson, Richard Marsh, Ann-Linda Bray, volunteer needed

Communion Assistants: Ann-Linda Bray, volunteer needed

Lector: JaneMarie Galiette

<u>Sunday School Teacher</u>: Danielle Berneski Sunday School Volunteer: Linda Jackson

Advent Candle Lighting: Kate, Lucas and Diana Seyboth

Altar Guild: Lisa Little, Lynda Brown, Emily Braman, JaneMarie Galiette

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Third Sunday of Advent Scripture Readings—Sunday, December 14, 2025:

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert blooms as God's people return from exile

Psalm 146:5-10

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

James 5:7-10

Patience until the coming of the Lord

Matthew 11:2-11

The forerunner of Christ

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.

Emanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff Church Office: 860-643-1193

Joanna Hertzog Betkoski, Pastor Jeff Sirois, Director of Music

Anne Heinrich, Office Administrator Katie Kurlak, Director of Family Ministries

Donna Connolly, Parish Nurse

Kathy Hatch, Property Supervisor
Barton Sattler, Treasurer

Jodi Eskin, Financial Secretary

Berk Little, Worship Support Specialist Kathy Rusch, Worship Support Specialist

Special Offering Envelopes

<u>The Special Offering envelope for December is Christmas.</u> If you would like to give to any of the special offerings in 2025, you can drop your check in the offering plate (or mail your check to the church office), made out the Emanuel Lutheran Church with the specific special offering listed on the memo line.

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, December 8.

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!

If you are visiting with us this morning, we would love for you to fill out a Welcome Card!

Cards are located on the table next to the guest book in the narthex. If you need assistance, an usher can direct you. You can share your name, phone number and email with us as well as let us know if you have a prayer request that you would like printed on our prayer list, or if you would like to be added to our email communications list to receive our monthly newsletter and Friday Weekly Update emails. Cards can be left in the basket located next to the cards, given to an usher, or placed in the offering plate.

Coffee Hours

You can sign-up to host coffee hour in one of three ways:

- ♦ On the paper sign-up sheet in the narthex
- ♦ Through the online sign-up sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uFDDtVaSqbAxWhfcOeNICaNBfsM6oeYYcdt7IMOD_ZE/edit?usp=sharing

♦ Call or email Anne in the Church Office: 860-643-1193 or aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org

Historian/Archivist Wanted

Are you interested in History? Are you interested in preserving documents, photographs and other objects? Would you like to learn more about the history of Emanuel Lutheran Church?

If you answered yes to these questions, you could become the Historian/Archivist of Emanuel.

In January, Matt Heinrich will step away from that position after 21 years of service to Emanuel, and we would like to find someone to take on that role. Much of the history of Emanuel has been organized and cataloged; Matt will describe the documentation and artifacts to you and will assist in the transition. If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact Kathy Rusch in person or by email to: krusch2@comcast.net.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Assisting Minister - Kim Boerner-Mercier

Decorate the Church Sanctuary for Christmas (after worship)

10:00am -10:45am Sunday School - Youth Room

10:00am –11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

12:00pm – 1:00pm Ministerio Nueva Creacion Worship Service in the Community Room

1:30pm –4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service - Sanctuary

Monday, December 8, 2025 CHURCH OFFICE—CLOSED

10:00am –12:30pm Music From the Heart Band rehearsal – MR 7:00pm –8:30pm Property Committee Meeting – LH

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 CHURCH OFFICE—CLOSED

7:00pm –8:00pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 CHURCH OFFICE: OPEN 10 AM – 2 PM

No events are scheduled.

Thursday, December 11, 2025 CHURCH OFFICE—CLOSED

10:00am -11:00am Bible Study - Library

5:45pm –6:45pm New Day Singers Rehearsal - Sanctuary

7:00pm –8:30pm Anthem Choir Rehearsal - Music Room

Friday, December 12, 2025

OFFICE CLOSED: OPEN 10 AM - 2 PM

8:30am -1:00pm Health Collective - LH/MR

Saturday, December 13, 2025

9:00am -10:45am Grow With Me Music - Community Room

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Assisting Minister - Ben Hogue

John Bear Wilhelm Baptism During Worship

St. Lucia Processional During Worship

10:00am -10:45am Sunday School - Youth Room

10:00am –11:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

1:30pm –4:00pm Christ Church Worship Service in the Sanctuary

1:30pm –2:30pm Worship Service at Evergreen Crossings in S. Windsor

4:00pm -6:00pm FME Chamber Music Concert Series -

New England Chamber Choir

Ministerio Nueva Creacion will have a worship service at Emanuel in the Chapel/Community Room today, Sunday, 12/7 at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Camp Calumet Camper Registration for Summer 2026

If your child is between the ages of 8-15, it is time to sign them up for a camp experience that will make this the best summer ever! Calumet offers one-week and two-week sessions at its overnight camp on the shores of Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH.

Please note that Calumet uses a tiered pricing system, plus a \$50 application fee.

Visit: <u>calumet.org</u> for registration information.

To register, visit: https://calumet.org/summercamp/residentcamp

Camper Referral discount: Recommend Calumet's Resident Camp to friends and family and receive \$100 off your fee for each first-time camper (non-sibling) who registers for camp based on your recommendation. Not only will you save money, but you will share the wonders of Calumet's overnight camp with others.

Once again, Emanuel will offer camperships for children attending Calumet Resident or Day Camp!

To secure a Calumet Campership from Emanuel, please email Anne in the Church Office (aheinrich@emanuelmanchester.org) along with your child(ren)'s name(s) and the following information.

In your email, please specify the rate that best applies to your family situation.

Rate 1: \$1105/week (This rate reflects the true cost of camp.)

Rate 2: \$980/week (Rate for families for whom the full cost of camp is out of reach. Rate is subsidized by generous donors.)

Rate 3: \$855/week (This rate covers a portion of the true cost and is subsidized by generous donations by individuals and congregations.)

Then indicate the amount of campership that will meet your needs.

Emanuel will apply the campership to the rate selected above.

Each camper's registration fee, \$50, will be covered by Emanuel and added to each campership award. Don't delay! Let us know your plans now so that we can help send kids to camp.

Please let us know your plans ASAP but not later than December 31, 2025.

Emanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester, CT was founded in the 1870s by Swedish immigrants who were settling in Manchester to work at the Cheney silk mills.

On the Third Sunday of Advent (December 14th) we will celebrate the Swedish origin of this church by starting the service with a Saint Lucia procession.

We invite the congregation to join in singing the first verse of two hymns in Swedish.

Saint Lucia

Sankta Lucia, ljusklara h∪gring, sprid i v•r vinternatt glans av din f∪gring. Drmmar med vingesus under oss sia, t∪nd dina vita ljus, Sankta Lucia.

meaning:

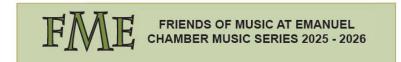
Saint Lucia, bright ring, spread in our winter night the shine of your ring. Dreams with the sound of wings below us, light your white candles, Saint Lucia.

You can find a recording of children singing this on: https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=5023

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Det är en ros utsprungen av Jesse rot och stam. Av fädren ren besjungen, den står i tiden fram, en blomma skär och blid, mitt i den kalla vinter, i midnatts mörka tid.

You can hear this sung in Swedish on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPXrP9gdmeo



Sunday, December 14, at 4 pm

Instrumental pre-concert at 3:30 pm



Celebrate the season with Music for Christmas performed by the NECC singers under the direction of Richard Donohue, founder and director.

New England Chamber Choir

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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