

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

9:00 p.m.



Photo: Rachel Boge

*As we gather before the service begins,
we encourage people to use the time as a centering for prayer and meditation.*

We also ask you to silence your phones.

If you wish to light a prayer candle, they are located on the right side as you enter the Sanctuary.

8:30-9:00 Prelude

Trish Rooney, organ | Rachel Schmitt, flute

Piano Duet:	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	<i>arr. Melody Bober</i>
Congregation:	Good Christian friends, rejoice	<i>Hymn #107</i>
Choir:	What sweeter music	<i>John Rutter</i>
Flute Solo:	Still, Still, Still	<i>arr. Chip Davis</i>
Congregation:	O little town of Bethlehem <i>(Hymn #78 Verses 1&2, Choir Verse 3, Hymn #79 Verses 4&5)</i>	<i>Hymns #78 & #79</i>
Choir:	What Can I Give Him?	<i>Holst/Helvey</i>
Organ:	Christmas in Sicily	<i>Pietro A. Yon</i>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(stand as you are able)

The Processional

O come, all ye faithful

Hymn #83

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (†)

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Christmas Eve III

Celebrant: **O** God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Gloria

Angels, we have heard on high

#96

Blessing of the Creche

Celebrant: O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

V. The Word was made flesh

R. *And dwelt among us.*

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The crèche is then censed.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Hymn

Joy to the world!

Hymn #100

The Second Reading

A Reading from the Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Angels, from the realms of glory

Hymn #93

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Luke 2:1-20

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(seated)

Sermon

The Rev. Diane Tomlinson

A moment of silence is observed after the sermon

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

Father enliven the Church for all your people. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Breathe fresh life into all your people. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Lead us into the ways of justice and peace. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Teach us to love the world and all who live in it and for those celebrating birthdays, especially Janet White (12/30). Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

We pray for this city of Rockford, for Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and Prague. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Celebrant: **I**t is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Celebrant: **W**e give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."†

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."†

Therefore. According to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

Celebrant: **A**nd we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (†) by the holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Joseph and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Lord's Prayer

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Solo: *Greensleeves* *arr. Chip Davis*

Communion Hymn: *It came upon the midnight clear* **Hymn #89**

Communion Hymn: *The snow lay on the ground* **Hymn #110**

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

***E**ternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Post-Communion Hymn: *Silent Night* **Hymn #111**

The congregation kneels as the individual candles are lit and the hymn is sung.

Verse 1:

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace
sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2:

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 3:

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Blessing (†)

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

(standing)

Recessional Hymn

Hark! the herald-angels sing

Hymn #87

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Melody Bober

Christmas flowers are given by ...

<u>Name</u>	<u>In Honor, Loving Memory or Thanksgiving of:</u>
John and Jean Frana	Bill and Elnor Geissman & John and Mabel Frana
Doug and Cheryl Rogers	Albert and Gladys Grinnall
Mark Tomlinson	Diane, Andrew, Alyssa, & Juanita
Robert and Elizabeth Parker	Family
Tamara Ross	Esther K. Ohr
Stacey LaRosa	Nancy Sauer, Erma & Francis Sauer, Geraldine & Kenneth Ruhling, Bernice & Paul Wilbur, Christopher Wilbur, Susan Cerniglia, Lynda & Joe LaRosa, & Jerry Jeffers
Mickey Swart	Michael Wilson, Mildred Swart, Arza Swart, & Molly Swart
Delbert Brown	Janet Wanninger, Everette Brown, & Myrtle Brown
Barbara and Denis Anderson	Our parents
Trish Rooney and Stan McGroarty	The Choir
Phil and Andrew James	Janet James
Marilynn Freedlund	Thanksgiving for-Karen and David, Janna and Paul, Peggy and Rick, grandchildren Margot and Miles, Benjamin, Jakob, Zakary and Lila, Patrick, Emily, & Great Grandson Rowen. In memory of-Morris, parents, siblings, & their families
Scott Neal and Kyla Chapman-Neal	William Neal, Noah James Chapman-Neal, & Shannon Vaultonburg
Tim Borden	Reverend Barbara Kopperud & Jayne and Robert Borden
Tyler Hillman	Joanie Bowers & Margy Sarver

Announcements

Please join us in the undercroft for coffee hour each Sunday
from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The office will be closed December 26th–January 2nd.

Book Club for the coming months: January- No meeting. February- “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver. March– “The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois” by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers.

We continue to collect food for the Rock River Valley Pantry. Collection baskets are in the Narthex.

In this time of global conflict, we pray for our military. If you would like someone's name added to the Prayer List, please email the office by Thursday.

Dining Out Group: Just after Christmas, Thursday, December 28th at 11:30 the Dining Out Group will enjoy lunch at The Norwegian Restaurant on N. Main Street. The hot topic will probably be reminiscing about December 25. Call Mary Nielsen to make your reservation at 815-654-8995. Come, relax with us!

Grief (Recovery) Group: meets the first Monday evening of every month. Due to the New Year holiday we will meet next on Monday, January 8th at 7:00 pm.

Emmanuel is resuming its memorial flowers program. This ministry disappeared during Covid when the church was closed, but we are starting this activity back up in January. The cost per Sunday will be \$50, which is in addition to your pledge. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one or friend, here is the procedure:

- Use the card in the pew
- Include your name and the Sunday nearest the date you wish to remember
- Include the name(s) of the people you wish to remember as well as the relationship (mother, father, spouse, etc.)
- Indicate if the flowers are in memory of or in honor of the person/people
- Indicate the phrasing of the memorial in the bulletin (usually, something like: The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Jane Smith by her daughter Sue Smith; or The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by the Wilson family.)
- Indicate if this is a one-time or annual (repeats each year on the closest Sunday to your chosen date) memorial
- Turn the pew card in to the office (you may place in the offertory basin)
- Don't forget to pay the \$50 to the church
- Any number of people can have memorials on the same Sunday
- Questions? Ask Mickey Swart (MRinkrat@aol.com)

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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Website: www.emmanuelrockford.org

Music License Information: OneLicense.net #A-709780

The Reverend Diane Tomlinson Rector
The Rev. Douglas Rogers Deacon
Cheryl Rogers Treasurer
Andrea Mawyer Parish Administrator
Andrew Jessop Director of Social Media
Wayne Hatwich Director of Music
Trish Rooney Assistant Director of Music
Timothy Borden Sexton
Steven KinCannon Seminarian
Vestry Members Owen Carter- Sr. Warden, Judy Pike- Jr. Warden,
Mary G. Johnson- Clerk, Sean Cramer,
Mickey Swart, Travis Castrey, Barb Anderson,
Maryanne Theyerl, & Jean Frana

Assisting in the Liturgy

9:00 p.m. Crucifer: Sam Theyerl
 Thurifer: Tyler Hillman
 Old Testament: Stacey LaRosa
 Epistle: Maryanne Theyerl
 Prayers of the People: Mark Baldwin

Copyright information:

“Still, Still, Still” and “Greensleeves” arranged by Chip Davis

Mannheim Steamroller A Fresh Air Christmas

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