

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

8:00am & 10:30am



Mother of God Lullaby Marija Cumic

*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.

Morning Prayer – Rite II

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

December 31, 2023

Prelude

Noël: Jesus was born at Christmas
Wayne Hatwich, organist

Balbastre

(stand as you are able)

Processional Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen

Hymn #105

Welcome and Announcements

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.
Revelation 21:3

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Confession

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born: O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Venite (spoken at 8:00 a.m.)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hands are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker,

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would harken to his voice!

The Lessons

First Reading

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147

1 Hallelujah!

*How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!*

*2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.*

*3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.*

*4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.*

*5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.*

*6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.*

*7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.*

*8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;*

*9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.*

*10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.*

*11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;*

*12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.]*

*13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;*

- 14 *For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.*
- 15 *He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.*
- 16 *He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.*
- 17 *He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.*
- 18 *He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?*
- 19 *He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.*
- 20 *He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.*
- 21 *He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!*

Second Reading

A Reading from Galatians

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Lo, how a Rose, e'er blooming

Hymn #81

Third Reading

A Reading from John

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Reverend Douglas Rogers, Deacon

Hymn

What child is this

Hymn #115

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People (stand as you are able)

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

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

He will come again 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*

The Prayers *(stand or kneel)*

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: Let us pray

*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*

Suffrages B *(congregation reads R)*

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. *Govern and uphold them, now and always.*

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. *We praise your name for ever.*

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. *Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.*

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. *For we put our trust in you.*

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. *And we shall never hope in vain.*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own parish and those worshipping especially those on our parish prayer list: Byron, Amber, Susan, Donna, Tony, Patrick, the victims of gun violence, the people of Rockford, Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine, and for those who have died, especially Jan. I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for those blessings given me and for those celebrating a birthday, especially Greg Cox (01/02), Kyla Chapman-Neal (01/03), and Tim Borden (01/05) and for those celebrating anniversaries, especially Scott Neal and Kyla Chapman-Neal (01/03). I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray that you will come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you, let me serve you in this life until by your grace, I come into your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

Recessional Hymn:

Angels, we have heard on high

Hymn #96

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen.

Postlude: Chorale Prelude: "Das alte Jahr vergangen ist"
(The old year now has passed)

J. S. Bach

Note about the cover

A very beautiful and rare icon of the Mother of God is "Lullaby." It is also called Peruvian or carrying in a scarf.

In the Peruvian icon, the Mother of God carries the Child of God in a sling on her back, whereas we are more often accustomed to seeing Him in our arms. This is Her son, filling his Mother with light, joy and freedom. With her Child, the Mother of God goes where the Lord calls.

The Mother of God wears interesting clothes that show Her modesty. At the same time, they are filled with the light of the stars. It seems that the Lord himself decided to decorate these robes.

It is not for nothing that the icon is called the Lullaby, since when a mother prays in front of this image, she and her baby's sleep improves. You can also pray in front of this icon when you are sick.

The icon itself now resides on the holy Mount Athos in the Xenophian monastery. In general, the icon was created by the Serbian icon painter. The image is considered rare. However, it is canonical.

<https://www.livemaster.ru/topic/3554092-blog-ikona-bozhiej-materi-kolybelnaya?inside=0&wf=0>

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.

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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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, Jennifer Smith, Sean Cramer,
Mickey Swart, Travis Castrey, Barb Anderson,
Maryanne Theyerl, & Jean Frana

Assisting in the Liturgy

8:00 a.m. Lector: Maria Mendia

**10:30 a.m. Crucifer/Server: Stacey LaRosa
First Reading: Cheryl Rogers
Second Reading: Stacey LaRosa
Third Reading: Stacey LaRosa
Suffrages: Timothy Borden
Ushers: Bob & Betsy Parker**

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