

# Emmanuel Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023

10:00am



*"The Annunciation" John Collier*

*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.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Prelude**

Chorale Prelude: Savior of the nations, come  
*Wayne Hatwich, organist*

*J.S. Bach*

### **Processional Hymn**

*O come, O come Emmanuel*

**Hymn #56**

*(stand as you are able)*

### **The Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. (†)

*People: His mercy endures 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.*

### **Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**P**urify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

# The Lessons

## Old Testament

### A Reading from Second Samuel

*II Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

### The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### Psalm 89:1-4

*1 Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.*

*2 For I am persuaded that your love is established forever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.*

*3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:*

*4 "I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations."'"*

## Epistle

### A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

*Romans 16:25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

### The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### Gradual Hymn

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

**Hymn #265**

*(stand as you are able)*

## The Gospel

### The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*Luke 1:26-38*

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*(seated)*

### Sermon

The Reverend Diane Tomlinson

*A moment of silence is observed after the sermon*

## Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## The Prayers of the People

*With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord saying, "Lord, have mercy."*

**F**or the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Paula our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or our President Joseph, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or this city of Rockford, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Byron, Amber, Susan, Donna, Tony, Patrick, the victims of gun violence, and the people of Rockford, Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially Jan, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or those celebrating birthdays, especially Janet *White* (12/30), let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

**F**or those who are presently serving in the military, especially Pierce, Hayden, Nate, Colin, Tyler, and Josh, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord have mercy.*

*The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## Confession

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*(you may kneel or be seated)*

*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.

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

## The Peace and Announcements

**Celebrant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

## Offertory Hymn

*The King shall come when morning dawns*

**Hymn #73**

## Offertory Response

**Celebrant:** All things come of thee O Lord.

*People:* And of thine own have we given thee.

# LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Eucharistic Prayer B

*(standing)*

### The Sursum Corda

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

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

## Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Blessed (†) is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*(kneeling or seated)*

**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,

*We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;*

**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 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.

*For those who prefer not to drink from the Chalice, make your way to the Baptistry where an individual portion is available.*

*An Alcohol free alternative is also available at the Baptistry.*

## Agnus Dei

*Celebrant and People:*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.*

## Communion Hymn

*Creator of the stars of night*

**Hymn #60**

## 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.

## Blessing (†)

### Recessional Hymn

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*

**Hymn #438**

### Dismissal

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

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

### Postlude

Noël en Grand Choeur

*Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier*

*"Your Goodness, Great Lord"*

## Note about the cover

Mary is a young schoolgirl, barely a teenager, her nose in a book on the front porch of her home. She looks disturbingly similar to every young girl, and her life is about to be turned upside down. In the familiar suburban setting, Collier has many of the symbols of the old. Like almost every other Mary, she is dressed in blue, book at hand, and lillies nearby. She is even tucked away in a portico, just like Fra Angelico's painting from over half a century ago.

[www.TheAdventProject.com](http://www.TheAdventProject.com)

# 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!

**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](http://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

10:00 a.m.      Crucifer/Server: Stacey LaRosa  
Lector: Stacey LaRosa