



# HOPE

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“Your Friendly Church on Knob Hill”*

**[www.immanuelrb.com](http://www.immanuelrb.com)**

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

**We thank all our members who worshipped with us today and we welcome all our online guests who joined us as we stay connected with God!**

**If you are a guest, please let us know where you are worshipping from this morning and any comments you may have from worship.**

**We'd love to get to know you better!**

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020 - The Hanging of the Greens**

# Order of Family Worship

## First Sunday of Advent

### **Opening Song: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels.

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

# Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# Confession of Sins

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth,

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# Kyrie

- P** Lord have mercy.
- C** **Lord have mercy.**
- P** Christ have mercy
- C** **Christ have mercy.**
- P** Lord have mercy.
- C** **Lord have mercy.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day:

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

## The Hanging of the Greens

### Reading: EMMANUEL GOD WITH US

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.

During this Advent season, let us learn of God's ways and walk in God's paths.

Let us seek the well-being of all creation.

## **Reading: DECORATING THE SANCTUARY**

Why do we do this? What does it mean? During the Advent season we prepare for the One who has come, whom we expect to come, and who will come again. We prepare our hearts and make room for the Messiah. In the Hanging of the Greens we share with Christians throughout the ages the memory and anticipation of Christ's coming. We decorate our church with symbols of love, joy, hope, and peace. Why do we do this? To tell the story again and then proclaim: Jesus is born! God is with us!

## **Reading: THE CHANCEL GREENS**

**The Lighting of the Tree** – Small white lights are used on our tree. Jesus said at one point, “I am the Light of the World,” but at another, Jesus says, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” While candles remind us that Jesus is the one true light, let each of these lights represent each person who makes up the Body of Christ. Each bulb emits only a small light and is ineffective alone, but together they dazzle in the darkness and overwhelm the senses.

*Placing: The tree is lit.*

# The Scripture

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

## The Carol - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB#357)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

## Reading: THE PULPIT GREENS

The Advent custom of decorating with evergreen branches comes to us from the peasants of the Middle Ages who believed that preparations should be made for the coming of Jesus. On the first Sunday of Advent, each family would gather evergreens and place them near the hearth in their home. We continue that tradition by hanging the greens in our congregational home, this place of worship. The evergreen, which does not go dormant, reminds us of God's abiding love in Jesus Christ and of our eternal relationship with God.

*Placing: Greens are placed on the Pulpit.*

## The Scripture

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

# The Carol - The Advent of Our King (LSB#331)

- 1 The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.
  
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

Text: Public domain

## Reading: THE ALTAR AND BAPTISMAL GREENS

Emmanuel, God with Us. People say that a name is everything. A name with a good reputation communicates trustworthiness and quality. So what is God's child to be named? The name chosen was Emmanuel – God with us. It is a name that comforts in times of need and stress, strengthens in times of challenge and decision, and encourages in moments of weakness and doubt. God with us! Forever! Continually! What a great name for God's son! Let the Altar and Baptismal evergreens remind us of God's abiding love in Jesus Christ and of our eternal relationship with God!

*Placing: Greens are placed on the communion table.*

*Placing: Baptismal wreath is placed on fountain in west planter box.*

## **The Scripture**

*Matthew 3:13-17*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

## **The Carol - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (LSB#344)**

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

# Reading: THE SANCTUARY GREENS

## **Evergreen Garlands.**

The most striking and universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. The color green represented eternal life, and so plants that remained green throughout the year played an important part in these celebrations. Christianity used the evergreens to teach that God's character is unchanging.

*Placing: Light Garlands over doors.*

## **The Poinsettias**

The Poinsettia, or "Flower of the Holy Night" as the plant is referred to in Mexico is the most popular Advent flower. It was discovered growing wild in Mexico and was taken to North America where it was developed into the type of flower seen today. The star-shaped center of the bloom reminds us of the star that shone on that first Christmas.

*Placing: A Poinsettia is placed near the Creche.*

## **The Creche**

The Creche – Possibly the best known Christmas decorating tradition is the scene of Bethlehem, where the birth took place. There was a stable filled with animals, shepherds, and angels. Mary and Joseph watched in wonder as visitors came searching for their child, baby Jesus. We set this scene before us during the Advent season as a reminder of God's gift to us.

*Placing: Another Poinsettia is placed near the Creche.*

# The Scripture

*Luke 2:11-14*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

## The Carol - Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (LSB#374)

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.
  
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.

# The Carol - Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (LSB#374)

3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!

Text: Public domain

## Reading: THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**The Advent Wreath** – Early on in the Church’s life, people realized they couldn’t show up to Christmas cold, but it took time to prepare our hearts and minds to welcome and celebrate Jesus’ arrival. So they established a season of the church year called, “Advent,” which spans 4 Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent means Coming, and so we remind each other that Messiah is Coming, Rescue is Coming. The simple circle of the wreath testifies of the continuation of life and life without end. The four candles encircle the Christ candle to signify God’s Son as the light of the world. The four candles of hope, love, joy and peace represent the four weeks in Advent. Each Sunday we will light a candle and on Christmas Eve the Christ candle will be lit. With increasing brightness from the candles, we experience the Light of the world and find hope in the coming of Jesus.

## **The Scripture**

*Isaiah 9:2*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

## **The Scripture**

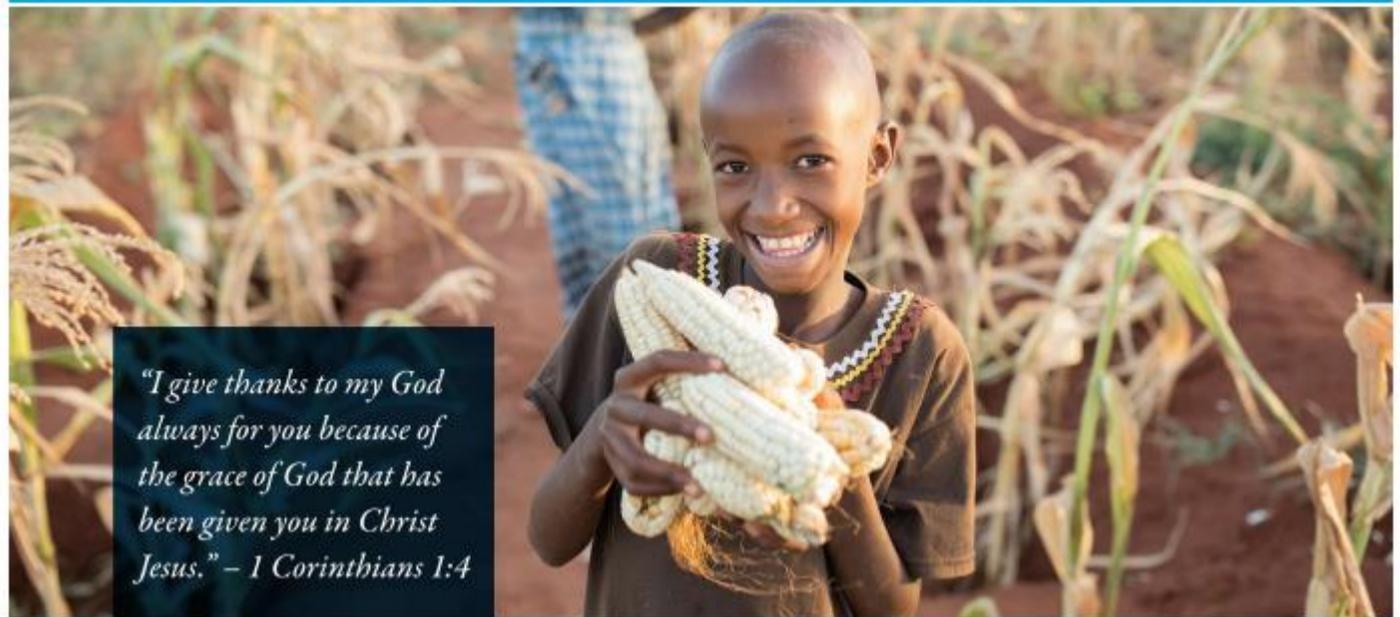
*John 1:1-5, 9*

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

# A Candle Litany – Hope

from Lutheran  
World Relief  
**LWR.ORG**



**P** GOD OF HOPE, we come to this new season of Advent weary from months of changes and uncertainty. As we enter into this season of waiting and watching, guide our hearts to a place of grace and thankfulness, even and especially when we cannot see clearly the road ahead. God of Promise, God of Hope:

**C** **Into our weary world, come.**

**P** God of Hope, as we light this first candle, we remember with gratitude the hope you give us in Jesus. Open our hearts and our eyes to recognize the glimmer of your presence in our lives in ways both big and small. God of Promise, God of Hope:

**C** **Into our weary world, come.**

**P** God of Hope, we remember today our siblings in Africa, for whom rain is scarce and feeling hope is an act of faith beyond our comprehension. We pray for your presence, creativity, and protection for our neighbors amid all the challenges they face this and every day. God of Promise, God of Hope:

**C** **Into our weary world, come.**

**P** God of Hope, giver of all things, we have so much to be thankful for. Thank you for being in the midst of the challenges of this past year. Guide us to focus on your Word as we look forward to the hope that Jesus brings. Help us to give thanks in all circumstances. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope.

**C** **Amen.**

# Nicene Creed

**☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down  
from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the  
living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

# Nicene Creed

- C** And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of  
sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

## Reflection

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus  
and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in You we put our trust. Do not let us be ashamed of our hope but come quickly. Sustain us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Lord, enrich Your saints in every way as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed again among us. Give boldness and faithfulness to Matthew, our Synod president; \_\_\_\_\_, our district president; \_\_\_\_\_, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. As You have called us into the fellowship of Your Son, so sustain us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, be with the governing authorities and enable them to preserve peace and order in our nation. Hear our prayers for our President; \_\_\_\_\_, our Governor; our military and police; and other civil servants as well as all newly elected officials. Increase a spirit of unity and cooperation among the people of our land and the nations of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Compassionate Lord, behold in mercy all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering [especially\_\_\_\_\_]. Give health to our world and bring the pandemic to an end. Comfort all who mourn, [especially\_\_\_\_\_,] and sustain them with a confident hope in the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*(for Mark 11)*

**P** Eternal Lord, as Your Son once entered humbly into Jerusalem to cries of “Hosanna,” so send Him to us according to His promise in the Holy Sacrament, that we may eat His body and drink His blood in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of our sins and in the unity of a true confession. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*(for Mark 13)*

**P** Eternal Father, You have given all judgment to Your Son, whose words will not pass away. Grant that Your people may hold fast to the words of Your Son’s Supper, and that no human thinking may obscure His testament, by which the true body and blood of Christ are eaten for the forgiveness of sins. Sustain us in repentance and saving faith, united in a true confession and always awake, watching for Your return. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

**C** Amen.

# Closing Song - Go Tell It on the Mountain (LSB #388)

ref Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. Refrain

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessèd Christmas morn. Refrain

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THIS MORNING!**

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**[immanuelrb706@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelrb706@gmail.com)**

**310 540-4435**

BLESSINGS to all of you from  
YOUR FRIENDLY CHURCH ON THE HILL!

Immanuel Lutheran Church

706 Knob Hill Avenue

Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Please know that Immanuel is praying for all of you!

