

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

221 Church Street, Ferguson, Missouri 63135

Dec. 10, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

314-521-7324

info@immanuelucc.org

www.immanuelucc.org

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
The hymns today are in the Chalice Hymnal (red).*

Gathering Music

Welcome & Life of the Church - Celebration of December Birthdays

Mission Moment

“The Christmas Fund”

Priscilla Bizer

Prelude

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

Kinyon

Crescendo Ringers

*Bells and Chimes *(You are invited to stand)*

*Call to Worship

One: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

**All: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God
from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains**

One: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

All: Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of love.

One: The grass withers and the flower fades;

But the word of our God will stand forever!

*Hymn of Praise

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#119

*Gathering Prayer

O God, you call to us from the wild places. You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts. We come in answer to your call. We come to pray, to praise, to learn of your love for all creation. Reveal your glory that we may see it together. Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

THANKS TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Lay Readers this morning:

8:30 a.m.

Barb Bloomfield

10:00 a.m.

Karl Klasing

Advent Candle Lighters

Krescene & Hannah Beck &
Joanne Schneider & Ida Cookson

Anna & Olivia Klasing

Ushers this morning:

8:30 a.m.

George Hildebrand

Barb Johnson

Marian Pohlmann

10:00 a.m.

Tim & Julie Guethler

Greg Conrad

Joe Henke

Rose Lockner

Sanctuary Door Greeters this morning:

8:30 a.m.

Angel & Sarah Henson

10:00 a.m.

Karl & Sarah Klasing family

Outside Welcomers this morning:

8:30 a.m.

Sue & Melinda Schuster

10:00 a.m.

Phyllis, Walter & Phillip Martinez

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING

Operating Income

Pledge Payments	\$ 12,882.00
Special Donations	150.00
Loose Offerings	37.00
Sub Total	\$ 13,069.00

Other Receipts

Christmas Offerings	25.00
Advent/White Gift Offerings	5.00
Discretionary Assistance Fund	25.00
Coffee Hour	31.00
Sub-Total	\$ 86.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,155.00

~ *Announcements* ~

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS IS TODAY at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have cookies and punch following the play. The children have been hard at work and hope you will join us. Bring your family and friends. It is sure to be a great time!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP is also today at 1:00 p.m. in the Reception Room. Please come join us for the fellowship even if you don't have cookies to share. If you can, please bring an appetizer.

DON'T FORGET, WEDNESDAY at 11:30 a.m. you are invited to bring your lunch for a Brown Bag Advent lunch and devotional. We meet in the Reception Room (church basement).

ADVENTURE SEEKER'S - THURSDAY, December 14 is the annual Christmas party for the Adventure Seeker's at the home of David Hoffman. Parking is limited so we will meet at Immanuel at 11:00 a.m. and car pool to David's house. This is a potluck so bring a dish to share and a \$5.00 gift to share at the exchange. Call Nurse Linda for reservations and to let her know what food you are bringing.

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE will be at the home of Pastor Jimmy & Annie Watson, 8268 Glen Echo Drive, Belnor, on **Sunday, December 17** from 11:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

SANCTUARY CHOIR will present their Christmas Cantata in the form of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 17 at both worship services.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, all youth & parents are invited to help set up poinsettias. Be here by 10:00 a.m. to set out the flowers. Afterwards, we will have pizza and a youth Christmas party. Each person is asked to bring a \$5 white elephant gift. We will finish our time together by 2:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be at **8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.** both with communion, live nativity and candlelight. We will have the **4th Sunday of Advent at the 9:30 a.m.** worship service on the same morning.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the Live Nativity at both the 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. Please contact Juli Duncan, juliduncan@claytonschoools.net, 314/310-2005 or Rev. Courtney, cchandler@immanuelucc.org, 314/521-7324 and let them know if you are available to assist at one or both services.

CHURCH BUDGET MEETING will be Sunday, January 7 following the single worship service at 9:30 a.m.

"Lift Up Your Eyes" A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent
"The Light of Peace" Raney
(see insert)

Reading of Isaiah 40:1-11

Special Music 10:00 a.m. *"Come, Emmanuel, Come"* Schram
Sanctuary Choir

Children's Moment 10:00 a.m. Rev. Courtney Chandler
(The children may leave now as we sing "Jesus Loves Me".)

Reading of 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All too often we fail in our efforts to live as God would have us live. We push away turning cold shoulders to God and each other. We express anger and resentment instead of compassion and grace. We seek revenge instead of reconciliation. In these moments we ask God to forgive us and set us upon the right path.

Silent Prayer

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Reading of Mark 1:1-8

Hymn of Preparation *"Blessed Quietness"* vss. 1, 2 & 5#267

Sermon *"The Traffic Report"* Dr. Jimmy Watson

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Prayer Response *"Alleluia"*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”*

***Doxology** *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below: Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.”*

***Dedication of the Offering**

Holy God, the love we receive from you is beyond our comprehension. Accept these gifts of love returned to you from grateful hearts. As your love has no limits, may this offering be infinite in compassionate outreach to others. Amen.

***Hymn of Parting** *“Angels From the Realms of Glory”* #149

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *“Wonderful Peace”*

MINISTERS

The People of Immanuel Church
MINISTERS TO THE MINISTERS

Dr. Jimmy Watson
Senior Pastor

Paul Westcott
Minister of Music

God is Still Speaking

Rev. Courtney Chandler
Minister of Christian Education

Linda Stoecklin, R.N.
Faith Community Nurse

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

*In Honor of
Noel Cookson’s birthday
Given by
His wife, Ida*

FLOWERS ON THE FLOWER STAND

*In Memory of
Loved Ones
Given by
Jim & Charlotte Smith*

**** CALENDAR ****

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today: 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:30 a.m. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” - Fellowship Hall
 1:00 p.m. Christmas Cookie Swap - Reception Room
Monday: 6:30 p.m. Immanuel Bowling League - Olympic Lanes
 7:00 p.m. Faith Explorations - Room 202
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. Breakfast with Pastor Jimmy - Corner Coffee House
 10:00 a.m. PACE - Room 100
 7:00 p.m. Church Council - Room 202
 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education - Fireside Room
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilters - Room 100
 10:00 a.m. Prayer and Share - Room 202
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Advent Lunch - Reception Room
Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
Friday: 10:00 a.m. PACE - Room 100
Next Sunday: 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Worship - 3rd Sunday Advent - Lessons & Carols
 8:30 a.m. Adult SS - Library
 3:00 p.m. Interfaith Dialogue - Room 202

*** LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE ***

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Sunday School</u>
8:30 a.m. 47	Students 21	5
10:00 a.m. <u>122</u>	Teachers <u>11</u>	
Total 169	Total 32	