

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Mark 13:24-37**

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

# IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

221 Church Street, Ferguson, Missouri 63135

Dec. 3, 2017

FIRST 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

**Prelude** *"All My Hope on God Is Founded"*

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

### \*Call to Worship

One: We come into God's presence in hopeful anticipation,  
We await the coming of the Son of God.

**All: The sun may be dimmed, the moon may lose its light,  
The stars may fall from the sky . . .**

One: Still, the Divine Spirit is with us.

**All: God sends angels from the four winds,  
From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.**

One: We hear Jesus' words, "Keep awake! Be alert!"

\*Hymn of Praise *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* #125

### \*Gathering Prayer

**God of the four winds, blow your Spirit through this space. From north and south, east and west, we gather to worship your holy name; we belong to you; we are clay in your hands. Open our ears to the sound of your voice echoing through the spheres. Open our eyes to the brilliance of your presence shining in each new day. Open our hearts to the new reign of Jesus Christ come now to earth. 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.**

Angel Henson

**10:00 a.m.**

Barb Krewson

### Ushers this morning:

**8:30 a.m.**

Bonnie & Bud Heenan

Barb Bloomfield

Robert McGrath

**10:00 a.m.**

Terry & Karen Fox

Jack Krein

Karl Klasing

Charlie & Cathy Miller

Jeff Remmert

Louise Pennell

### Sanctuary Door Greeters this morning:

**8:30 a.m.**

Marian Pohlman

**10:00 a.m.**

Marion & Shannon McCreary

### Outside Welcomers this morning:

**8:30 a.m.**

Judy Thompson

**10:00 a.m.**

Kathi Remmert

## LAST WEEK'S OFFERING

### Operating Income

Pledge Payments \$ 3,643.00

Special Donations 110.00

Loose Offerings 2.00

**Sub Total \$ 3,755.00**

### Other Receipts

Every Child's Hope ECH 25.00

Discretionary Assistance Fund 50.00

Coffee Hour 24.00

**Sub-Total \$ 99.00**

**TOTAL \$ 3,854.00**

~ *Announcements* ~

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** is tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Paula & George Hildebrand, 12 Vicksburg Station, St. Charles. You do not need to be a member of the Bon Appetite Group to join us. Everyone in the church is invited. Please bring an appetizer.

**BEGINNING NEXT WEDNESDAY** at 11:30 a.m. you are invited to bring your lunch for a Brown Bag Advent lunch and devotional. We will meet in the Reception Room (church basement).

**A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS WILL BE NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER. 10** 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!

**ADVENTURE SEEKER'S - THURSDAY, December 14** is the annual Christmas party for the Adventure Seeker's at David Hoffman's Home. We will meet at Immanuel at 11:00 a.m. and car pool to David's home. Parking is limited. 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.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**, all youth & parents are invited to help set up poinsettias. Be here by 9:30 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@claytonschools.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.

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

**Reading of Isaiah 64:1-9**

**Special Music 10:00 a.m.** "Prepare the Way of the Lord"  
Sanctuary Choir, Sunday School Singers & Handbells Nordmeyer

**Reading of 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Yet, You O God, are Father and Mother; like the potter you fashioned us from clay in your holy image. In these silent moments hear the sighing of our spirits as we lay open our hearts to you. Mold us anew, O God, recreate a right image within us.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Affirmation of Forgiveness**

**Reading of Mark 13:24-37**

**Hymn of Preparation** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #86

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

**Prayer Concerns**

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

**Prayer Response** "There's Something About That Name" #115

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's something about that name!!*

*Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain.*

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim:*

*Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name!*

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** "Soon and Very Soon"

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

**\*Dedication of the Offering**

God, whose faithfulness exceeds the limits of the earth, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ’s peace in the world. Amen.

**A Service of Holy Communion for Advent**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Communion Prayer**

**Blessing of the Bread and Cup**

**Sharing the Meal**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, a light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Thank you for recharging our batteries and reviving your ambient glow within us. You are the power source that never gives out—eternally renewable and sustainable. Thank you God. Thank you Christ. Thank you Spirit. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Parting**

*“Here I Am Lord”*

#452

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*“Shine Jesus, Shine”*

**MINISTERS**

*The People of Immanuel Church*

**MINISTERS TO THE MINISTERS**

**Dr. Jimmy Watson**

*Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Courtney Chandler**

*Minister of Christian Education*

**Paul Westcott**

*Minister of Music*

**Linda Stoecklin, R.N.**

*Faith Community Nurse*

*God is Still Speaking*



**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

*In Loving Memory of  
Don & Betty Johnson  
Given by their family*

**\*\* CALENDAR \*\***

**IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

- Today:** 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
11:15 a.m. Mission Outreach - Library  
11:30 a.m. Advent Festival - Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Open House - Hildebrand’s home
- Monday:** 6:30 p.m. Immanuel Bowling League - Olympic Lanes  
7:00 p.m. Faith Explorations - Room 202
- Tuesday:** 10:00 a.m. PACE - Room 100
- Wednesday:** 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Advent Lunch - Reception Room  
7:00 p.m. Crescendo Ringers - Music Room
- Thursday:** 10:45 a.m. Immanuel Fellowship Bible Study - Chapel  
11:45 a.m. Immanuel Fellowship Christmas Lunch & Program - FH  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Reception Room
- Friday:** NO PACE
- Saturday:** 10:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for “A Charlie Brown Christmas” -FH
- Next Sunday:** 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Worship - 2nd Sunday Advent  
8:30 a.m. Adult SS - Library  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Singers - Music Room  
11:30 a.m. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” - Fellowship Hall  
1:00 p.m. Cookie Swap - Reception Room

**\* LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE \***

<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Adult Sunday School</u>
8:30 a.m. 39	Students 24	5
10:00 a.m. <u>96</u>	Teachers <u>10</u>	
<b>Total 135</b>	<b>Total 34</b>	