

***Sunday, December 1, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent***



***Immanuel United Church of Christ***

*118 Oak Street, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956*

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**Worship Leader: Dr. Rev. Tom Fritz**

Phone: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – 920.722.0381

e-mail: [iuccneenah@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iuccneenah@sbcglobal.net)

website: [iuccneenah.org](http://iuccneenah.org)

## ***God Is Still Speaking***

### ***Welcome to Immanuel***

*Who ever you are, where ever you are on life's journey,  
You are welcome here.*

**Spencer Jones**

**Music Coordinator**

**Those serving us this Sunday, Dec 1, 2024**

**Greeters Gary and Judy Joosten**

**Ushers: Gary and Judy Joosten**

**Reader: Pastor**

**Those serving us this Sunday, Dec 8, 2024**

**Greeters: Bob and Jean Vande Hey**

**Ushers: Bob and Jean Vande Hey**

**Reader: Pastor**

### **Please pray for:**

***Beverly Wilfling***

**Schroeder Family**

**Chuck Wolf**

**Jean Vande Hey**

**Lois Hoppe**

**Tom Rihm**

**Ethan Ketter – Motorcycle accident victim**

**Jack Turner – Don's father**

Welcome and Announcements

† indicates congregation is invited to stand  
(Please sign the attendance sheet)

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 245

*The virgin will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Emmanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el And ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high And or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show  
 heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease;

*Refrain*

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 And cause us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

TEXT: Latin Hymn, *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, 1710;  
 translated by John M. Neale, stanzas 1,2, altered;  
 Henry S. Coffin, stanzas 3,4 altered  
 MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore, altered

VENI EMMANUEL  
 L. M. with Refrain

## Sunday, December 1, 2024—First Sunday of Advent

Prelude and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Story

Call to Worship (L=Leader; **P=People**)

L: We gather in anticipation, awaiting the birth of the Messiah.

**P: We long for the hope that can brighten the darkness of our lives, and the love that can transform us.**

Opening Hymn No. 245 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vss. 1 & 2

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, for this Advent season, and for our anticipation of the birth of your Son. Join us in these moments of worship. Fill our hearts with your love, that the joy of this season may remain with us throughout our lives. Amen!**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Responsive Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10 (W=Women, **M=Men**)

W: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. I put my trust in you, do not let me be put to shame, or fall prey to my enemies.

**M: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame, but let those who are willingly treacherous be put to shame.**

W: Help me to know your ways, teach me to walk in your paths.

**M: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation—I wait for you all day long.**

W: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love through all the ages.

**M: Do not remember the sins of my youth, but see me through your steadfast love, for your sake, O Lord.**

W: God is good and upright; he teaches sinners to walk in his way; he leads the humble in what is right.

**M: The paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

W: Blest are those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may the God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus Christ direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth distress among the nations confused by the roaring of the sea and of the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that the day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Here ends this reading of the Gospel.

# Let Us Break Bread Together 460

*They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread. Acts 2:42*

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
2. Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

## *Refrain*

When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)

TEXT: Traditional Spiritual  
MUSIC: Traditional Spiritual; arranged by Keith Phillips

LET US BREAK BREAD  
Irregular meter

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WORSHIP THE LORD

Lord! Great is the Lord! Lord! Lord!  
Lord! Great are You, are You, Lord! Lord!

1 D.C. 2 D.S. 3



Hymn No. 460

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Prayers of the People and the 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 forever and ever. Amen!**

Sermon: “Selfless Devotion—The Path to God”

Offering

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**We give you thanks, O God, for this season of giving, and the life of the Manger Child who calls us to generous living. Hearing his call, we bring our gifts and our lives to you. Bless our offerings, that they may share the good news of our Savior’s birth with all the world. Amen!**

Invitation to Communion and Prayer of Institution

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn No. 245 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vss. 3 & 4

Benediction

Postludes

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 L. M. with Refrain

**Office Hours this Week**  
**Pastor's Hours: Tues, Thurs & Fri 10 - 2**  
**Heather's Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs**

### **Looking Forward**

**We would like for everyone to please sign the Pew Pads again. This will allow us to know who is at services.**

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Larry Schroeder memorial after service**  
**Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting 6pm**  
**Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Semi annual meeting after service**

### **Birthday Blessings**

*Heather Hessler Dec 2*  
*Nevan Burow Dec 6*  
*Gary Joosten Dec 6*

**EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE: If you need emergency Pastoral care, call Rev. Tom Fritz at (920-268-5757) Please leave a detailed message. Talk slowly and leave: 1) your name & phone number; 2. which hospital and who the person is and room #; 3. anything else necessary to help him understand the situation. If you need to talk to the secretary, you can reach Heather at 920-734-7843. Any other church concerns, please contact Bob Vande Hey at 920-740-6177.**