

Welcome to Emmanuel!

Emmanuel is a Christian community committed to the restoration and renewal of relationships - with God, within ourselves, with others, and with our world.

We are very glad you are with us today!

Each year the church celebrates the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. Part of the celebration in Advent season is anticipating his birth, and at Christmas telling the stories surrounding his birth. The whole Bible anticipates Jesus' coming, so his birth is a climactic moment. As we consider again the meaningfulness of Christmas, we will hear readings from the Bible that highlight one important strand of the Christmas story. Christmas is about the birth of a king. This is a different kind of royal narrative, however. The history of human power, rule and authority is a sad story. The story of Jesus is so radically different it is easily misunderstood. If we can see what is happening in this story it is profoundly and remarkably encouraging when we grasp just who Jesus is and what he came to do.

We will hear 5 readings, each in a different language. We do this because Jesus came into the world for all people, and our celebration of his birth is just one of many that are happening around the globe this month.

Childcare

Childcare is available for children 2nd grade and under, though all children are welcome through all or part of the service.

Childcare is in room A-30.

(Go down the stair case after exiting the chapel, at the end of the long hallway, make a left. Make a right through the cafeteria area. The entrance to A-30 is on the left opposite the mailboxes.)

For Reflection

My child, you are going to be a great king; do not imitate me in the taste I have for building, or in that I have had for war; try, on the contrary, to be at peace with your neighbors.

Louis XIV

Kings from Queens from Queens come Kings We're raising hell like a class when the lunch bell rings.

Run DMC

"And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.""

Mathew 27:35-37

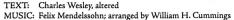
Prelude - Allegretto from Sonata for Clarinet & Piano, Op. 167 by Camille Saint-Saëns

Welcome and Preparation Call to Worship - Isaiah 9:6-7

- Leader For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
 - All and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Leader Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
 - All 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.
- Leader The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
 - All 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!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING





MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain

The First Reading

GENESIS 1:26-31

Humanity is called to rule on Earth in God's likeness.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

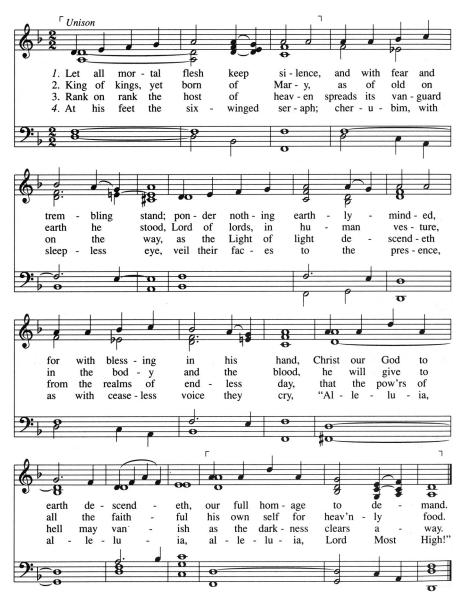
²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (ESV)

> Reader The word of the Lord Congregation Thanks be to God!

Sena Hanaishi - Japanese

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE



Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent. Adapted by Gerard Moultrie, 1864 PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7. French melody, 17th cent. Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

The Second Reading

GENESIS 49:8-12

A king will come from the line of Judah.

⁸ "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness: who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet. until tribute comes to him: and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk. (ESV)

> Reader The word of the Lord Congregation Thanks be to God!

Genevieve Schafer - English

ANDANTE UN POCO ADAGIO FROM CLARINET SONATA OP.120 NO.1 IN F MINOR

Johannes Brahms

The Third Reading

DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20 The king over God's people must be distinct.

¹⁴ "When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ¹⁶ Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

¹⁸ "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel. (ESV)

> Reader The word of the Lord Congregation Thanks be to God!

Haleluya Hadero - Amharic

THOU WHO WAST RICH



Frank Houghton, 1894-1972

Text © OMF International (IHQ) Ltd. Used by permission.

QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE 9.8.9.8.9.8. French carol melody Arr. by Charles H. Kitson, 1930

The Fourth Reading

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

God looks at the heart as He chooses a king from Bethlehem.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest,^[a] but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹²And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. (ESV)

> Reader The word of the Lord Congregation Thanks be to God!

Rufina Flora George Rajan - Hindi

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?



Traditional English carol Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865 GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.ref. English melody, 16th cent.

The Fifth Reading

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Jesus, the king from the tribe of Judah, is born in Bethlehem.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. (ESV)

Reader The word of the Lord Congregation Thanks be to God! Cheng Geng - Mandarin

The Message - Rev. Scott Strickman

Where Is the King?

GESU BAMBINO / THE INFANT JESUS

Pietro A. Yon / Frederick Martens Juan Franco, tenor

When blossoms flowered amid the snows upon a winter night Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced And at His blessed birth the stars Their exultation voiced.

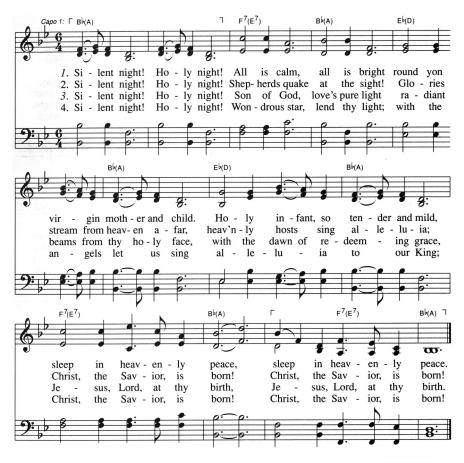
O Come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world it's Christmas Rose, it's king of Love and Light Let every voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell

O come let us adore him O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Prayer for Our World - Melissa Toomajian

SILENT NIGHT



Joseph Mohr, 1818 Tr. ca. 1850 STILLE NACHT Irreg. Franz Gruber, 1818

Closing Prayer

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Benediction

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude - Molto allegro from Sonata for Clarinet & Piano, Op. 167 by Camille Saint-Saëns

We are very grateful to God for our musicians.

Sohyun Ahn, piano Juan Franco, tenor Paolo Marchettini, clarinet

If you have questions about anything you observed today, or have an interest in learning more about Emmanuel church or Christianity, you are welcome to reach out to our pastor, Scott Strickman, who is very happy to offer any help or guidance. <u>sstrickman@emmanuelnyc.org</u>

Announcements

DYKER HEIGHTS LIGHTS OUTING - DEC 17

Join us for an informal outing to Dyker Heights, Brooklyn to walk around and see the Christmas lights. We will eat together around 5pm (we will provide food) in the neighborhood and then walk around. If you are interested in joining contact Scott: <u>sstrickman@emmanuelnyc.org</u>.

GHANA MISSIONS TRIP MEETING - DEC 18

If you are interested in going with people from Emmanuel to Ghana this summer, or if you want to be part of the support team, join us for lunch after the service on <u>12/18</u>. We will talk about specific dates, goals for the trip, and move towards defining who will be going.

VIEW our <u>calendar</u> for additional upcoming events.

HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

We're very excited to have added 2 new HFGs with childcare. Please visit our <u>home</u> <u>group page</u> for details. We hope these groups will help families with young children to participate in HFG life. We encourage everyone to commit to attending a group this year!

NEIGHBORHOOD TUTORING - SATURDAYS

Emmanuel has been working with a local ministry partner this year who is starting a new program at the Grant Houses (123rd-125th streets) to help young children with basic literacy skills. We are looking for volunteers who will serve 1-2 Saturdays a month from 10am-1pm. No experience with teaching is necessary. Contact Jane Okang with questions or to find out how to get involved.

COUNSELING WITH MELISSA

Melissa Toomajian offers weekly counseling appointments free of charge. Reach out to <u>melissa@emmanuelnyc.org</u> for availability.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

We encourage you subscribe to our mailing list, <u>here</u>. Each week we send out a pastoral letter along with announcements. You can also request to join <u>our internal</u> <u>Facebook page</u>.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

Join an elder in prayer for the church and the world every Sunday morning before service: 9:45am in room 303. Turn left after front desk. Follow hallway all the way to elevator for the 3rd floor.

TUESDAY MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

Join us at 7:30am and at 8pm for 30 minutes of prayer every Tuesday. FT Chong leads the morning prayer meeting, Tim Craig the evening meeting. There is a distinct Zoom meeting link for each meeting, which you can always access on our <u>upcoming</u> <u>events</u> page.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR NEED

Emmanuel is hiring a Children's Ministry Coordinator. This is a paid position that requires 8-10 hours per week of work, and involves recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers and nursery staff. You can view the job description on our website: <u>emmanuelnyc.org/employment</u>

Questions for Reflection

1. What things currently worry you? Why?

2. If you aspire to have some experience of joy or peace this month, what will you do? To the best that you can plan it, what would bring you joy and peace?

3. Why do people seek out positions of power and status? What are typical motivators or rewards?

4. How is Jesus like the rulers of the world? How is he different?

5. How does the humility of Jesus shape how we understand him as a king? How does the Christmas story show his humility?

6. Why is humility needed to follow Jesus?

7. How can the love of God in Jesus help you with the things you worry about? What does it look like to cast your cares upon him?

8. How can you draw nearer to God this season? What can you prioritize or do that would help you experience rest in Him?

9. What are ways you can imitate Jesus in bringing love to others this time of year? How can you enter someone's life in a way that brings the peace of God with you?

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2



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