

Emmanuel Reformed Church

# RETURN

THE MINOR PROPHETS

ADVENT '24

Sunday, December 3, 2023

DIGITAL VERSION

# Worship

## **We Gather**

### **"Glory in the Darkest Place"**

Children's Message: Lighting the First Advent Candle

### **"King of Kings"**

Announcements & Prayers of the People

### **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

## **God Speaks to Us**

Amos, "Righteousness"

*Pastor Cody Raak*

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

*All who believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins are welcome! Come down the center aisle, receive the bread and the cup, and return by the outer aisles.*

*Trays will also be brought around the back.*

### **"One Still Night"**

## **We Respond**

\* **"Doxology" (#625)**

\* Prayer for Blessing

\* Benediction

**\* We stand, as able, to worship our great God!**

## **Sunday, November 26, 2023**

- 9 AM** Praise Team Practice  
Program Practice  
Sunday School Potluck — **EVERYONE WELCOME!**
- 10 AM** Worship Service, with Communion  
Amos, "Righteousness"
- 7PM** **Choir Practice**

## **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

- 6:50 PM** AWANA @Springfield Community Bible Church (gr K-6)
- 7 PM** CREW @ERC (gr 7-8)  
LIT @Parsonage (gr 9-12)

## **Thursday, November 30, 2023**

- 3-5 PM** Church Office Open\*

## **Sunday, December 3, 2023**

- 9 AM** Sunday School for all ages!  
Program Practice  
3yo-6th grade meet downstairs  
7th-12th grade meets in the parsonage basement  
Adult class meets downstairs
- 10 AM** Worship Service  
Habakkuk, "Repentance"
- 7PM** **Choir Practice**

**\*The church office will be open THURSDAY this week from 3:00-5 PM.**

# Prayer

*This week, pray with the words of the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Hymn #123).*

## **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

Advent is all about Christ’s coming — his first coming at Christmas, *and* his coming again. This week, pray for Christ to come — and come soon (Revelation 22:17, 20)!

Christ is *Emmanuel*, “God with us.” Christ is coming, yes, and he has *already* come. He is with you *now* through his Spirit in you. Thank God for his presence, and rest in his care for you at all times.

## **“Come and cheer/Our spirits by Thine advent here”**

Pray for those who need “cheer, who are struggling through illness and isolation, grief and loss, anxiety and depression. Lift up those in need of healing: Larry and Muriel Namminga, Elmer and Bernice Tolsma, Cornelia Tjeerdsma, Joel Westra, and others.

## **“Come Thou Wisdom from on high...”**

***“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”*** (James 1:5). Is there a decision or question that you need understanding or guidance to navigate? Ask God to shine his light in the dark, showing you his desire for you in the present, and for what’s next. Walk closely with God.

## **“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee...”**

Give thanks for the presence of Christ Jesus with you. Close your prayers with several minutes of silence, breathing deeply and relaxing in his peace, his joy, his love for you. Enjoy his nearness. Carry that closeness with you through the rest of your day.

# Commands of Jesus

## “Love Your Neighbor”

— Matthew 22:39–40, Luke 10:29–37 —

The Old Testament (Hebrew) word for “Righteousness” refers to a right *state* of relationship. A “righteous” person, then, lives with integrity in all their relationships — including their relationship with God. This Hebrew word is closely related to the word for “Justice,” which refers to *actions* we take that bring about these right relationships — the ways we help, serve, and care for others, especially “the least of these” (Matthew 25:31–46). Actions of generosity, compassion, and forgiveness make our relationships more “righteous” — including our relationship with God.

***How can you love your neighbor this week?***

**Identify who your neighbor is.** In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the “neighbor” is the Samaritan, a person any “good” Jew would have hated. Instead of loving the ones who are like you, the ones you get along with already (Matthew 5:46–47), is God leading you to love and serve someone who is difficult for you to be around? Pray for God to help strengthen you for this, and ask for opportunities where you can show love.

**Consider how people receive love.** Gary Chapman’s *The 5 Love Languages* is a helpful guide for us to find creative and targeted ways to love those around us. Think of your spouse, your child (or grandchild), or a friend. Would this person *feel* most loved with **Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, or Physical Touch**? If you’re not sure, experiment this week with one intentional gesture of each love language, and look for how this person responds.

**Make your love costly — without spending a lot.** How can you show love without spending extravagant amounts of money? Give of your time, your attention, your abilities, in a way that would bless someone: finish a honey-do project, invite a friend over for coffee, offer to drive someone to an appointment. As you do, give your full attention to this person (i.e., put down your phone!). Intentionally listen to them, without expecting anything in return.

## Emmanuel's Mission

“To serve God and share the message of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

## Emmanuel Staff

**Pastor:** Cody Raak (464-4952)  
**Office Manager:** Gwynevere DenHerder (464-7764)

## Emmanuel Consistory

### Elders

Beth Namminga (*Mission*)

Bryan Nagel (*Worship*)

Lawrence Namminga, Jr. (*Clerk*)

Connie Tjeerdsma (*Hospitality*)

Claudette Heusinkveld

Ginger Pudwill

### Deacons

Amy Cooper

Craig Vanderlei (*Treasurer*)

Tom Kolecka

Jeremy Krueger (*Deacon's Secretary*)

Brenda Pudwill

Blane Nagel

## **Emmanuel Reformed Church**

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[www.youtube.com/@emmanuelreformedchurch2022](https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelreformedchurch2022)

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