

Emmanuel Reformed Church

# RETURN

THE MINOR PROPHETS

ADVENT '24

Sunday, December 10, 2023

DIGITAL VERSION

# Worship

## We Gather

**"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (#1)**

Children's Message: Lighting the Second Advent Candle

**"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" (#127)**

Announcements & Prayers of the People

**Light of the World-** *Connie Tjeerdsma & Mary Beth Driessen Accompanist  
Linda Tjeerdsma*

## God Speaks to Us

Micah, "Repentance"

*Pastor Cody Raak*

**"Cleanse Me" (#438)**

## We Respond

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

\* Prayer for Blessing

\* Benediction

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

# This Week @ERC

## **Sunday, December 10, 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: Micah, "Repentance"
- 11 AM** Congregational Meeting
- 7PM** **Choir Practice**

## **Tuesday December 12, 2023**

- 7 PM** God's Garden Circle Christmas Potluck  
Melissa Jelsma has the program

## **Wednesday, December 13, 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, December 14, 2023**

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

## **Sunday, December 17, 2023**

- 9 AM** Sunday School — Program Practice  
3yo-6th grade meet downstairs  
7th-12th grade meets in the parsonage basement  
Adult class meets downstairs
- 10 AM** Worship Service: Habakkuk, "Restoration"
- 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 “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”  
(Hymn #127).*

**“Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown”**

The mystery and miracle of Christmas is this, that Christ “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:7)! Ponder this with Jesus today, that he willingly and joyfully chose to step down from his place of majesty and might in order to share our weakness. Consider the incarnation — God’s becoming flesh — in worship and wonder.

**“But of lowly birth did Thou come to earth,  
and in great humility”**

Remember what we read in Mark, how Jesus understands his personal mission and purpose: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Draw near to Jesus, and allow his humble nature and gentle spirit to give rest to your soul (Matt 11:28-30).

**“But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn  
they bore Thee to Calvary”**

It may seem strange to remember the cross at Christmas, but we know that his dying was the reason for his being born. Confess your sins in the assurance of his forgiveness. Give thanks for his mercy and kindness and faithfulness.

**“O come to my heart, Lord Jesus—  
there is room in my heart for Thee”**

Welcome Jesus into every moment of your day, into every thought you think, into every conversation you enjoy. Look for his presence with you in all things. Pray, too, for Jesus to rush in to the lives of those who are lonely, those who are sick, and those who are lost.

# Commands of Jesus

## “Make Disciples”

— Matthew 28:19 —

“Disciple” is a word we use often, but rarely define. Think “apprentice:” a disciple is a student who masters not just information, but skills and character as well. As disciples or apprentices of Jesus, we are learning from Jesus how to think like Jesus, work like Jesus, and live like Jesus. And Jesus commands us to help others to learn the same.

**The first disciple you make is you.** Of the three areas of discipleship — Convictions (belief), Capabilities (skills), and Character (integrity) — which are you seeing the most growth in? Which one needs to be developed?

**Pray for an apprentice.** There is someone in your life who wants to follow Jesus more intentionally. And there people who look to you as an influence. Pray for God to help you see the person he is asking you to encourage in growing to be like Jesus. Read Philippians 3:17-21 as you pray.

**Start with “No.”** Dallas Willard’s advice for spiritual health is to ***“ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”*** Hurry is antithetical to the spiritual life. You may be thinking, of all the times of the year to think about this, Christmas might be the busiest. But every season of life fills itself with busyness, all while convincing us that it will “slow down” at some future time. The call to discipleship asks us to say “No” to busyness and hurry, so we have space in our life to listen to Jesus, learn from him, and practice his way with others. Ask God to help you find one thing that you *don’t* have to do. Ask for God to send someone to take on that work or responsibility or role in your place. And then intentionally and carefully use that time to build your relationship with Jesus, and to encourage others to do the same.

## 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**

1112 College Street | PO Box 525

Springfield, SD 57062

(605) 369-5596

[erchurch@gwtc.net](mailto:erchurch@gwtc.net)

[www.emmanuelreformed.com](http://www.emmanuelreformed.com)

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

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