

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

212-289-8128 www.immanuelnyc.org www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

Immanuel's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCixDAacoJS7umLndrBnugmw You can tune in at 10:55 a.m. for the prelude and service or later for a recording.

The Third Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Sunday, December 17, 2023

arm welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church. We are delighted that you are here and hope that you will return. If you do not already have a church home in our city, please consider joining this congregation. We would rejoice to have you. Just send me an email (gpfryer@gmail.com) or speak with Pastor Carol Fryer (ceafryer@gmail.com) or with Pastor Lara Bhasin (lara.bhasin@tsm.edu).

In Christ, Cregory Fryer Pastor Gregory Fryer

Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Three

PRELUDE Prelude Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

BELLS

Please stand when the minister approaches the center aisle.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand. Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

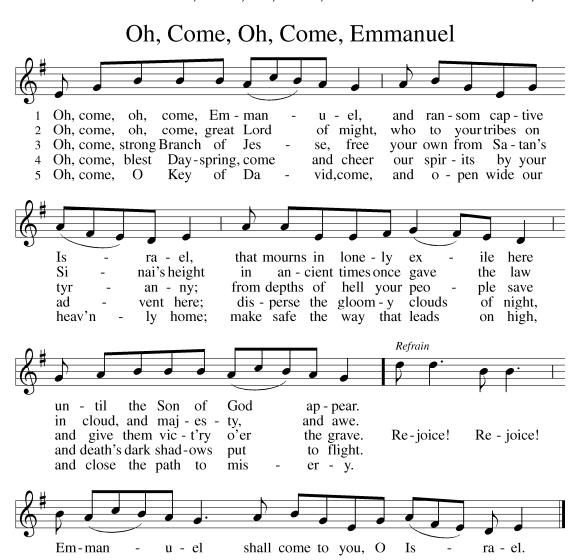
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 34

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

VENI, EMMANUEL



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

ADVENT CANDLE (The third candle is lit by Missy, Joe, and Axel Howell.)

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, with this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word of God

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, RSV

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the LORD, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good tidings to the afflicted;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

3to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

4They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

A The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4-9, LBW



Cantors ⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,* whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

All 5who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;* who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

Cantors ⁶who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,* and food to | those who hunger.

All The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;* the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

Cantors 8the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;* he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

All 9The LORD shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray constantly, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit, ²⁰do not despise prophesying, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good, ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

A The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the singing of the Gospel Acclamation and for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

ALLELUIA: Traditional Gregorian Chant



All: Alleluia.

Cantors Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

All: Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter:



⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent

us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

After the Gospel:

P The Gospel of the Lord!

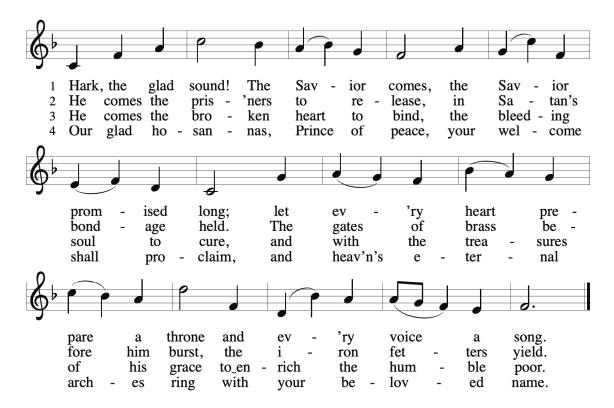


HYMN LBW 35

Hark, the Glad Sound! (Next page)

CHESTERFIELD

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Please sit after the minister's opening invocation of the Holy Trinity.

SERMON

Following the sermon, silence for reflection.

APOSTLES' CREED

1 I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LITANY. The response overlaps each petition.

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, singing, "Lord, have mercy."

Begin:



After each petition except the last, the People respond:



The last petition:

A For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.



The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."

Sit

THE OFFERING You can give your tithes and offerings via our QR code. Just point the camera on your smart phone to this code on your screen:



Or you can donate via this link: <u>Donate</u> Here are some other options for giving: <u>Ways to Give</u>

The Eucharistic Bread and Wine are moved from the credence table to the altar. The congregation remains in the pews until the Distribution of the Sacrament.

Zwingt die Saiten in Zithara
Und laßt die süße Musika
Ganz freudenreich erschallen,
Daß ich möge mit Jesulein,
Dem wunderschönen Bräut'gam
mein,
In steter Liebe wallen!
Singet, springet,
Jubilieret, triumphieret,
Dankt dem Herren!
Groß ist der König der Ehren!

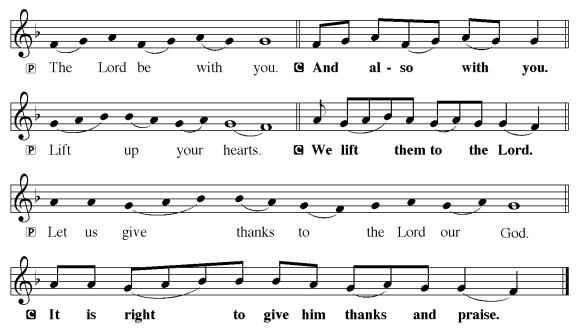
Pluck the strings on the harp and let the sweet music resound full of joy, so that with dear Jesus, my most beautiful bridegroom, in constant love I may make my pilgrimage!
Sing, leap, rejoice, triumph, thank the Lord!
Great is the king of honour!

Offertory Prayer

- A Merciful Father,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

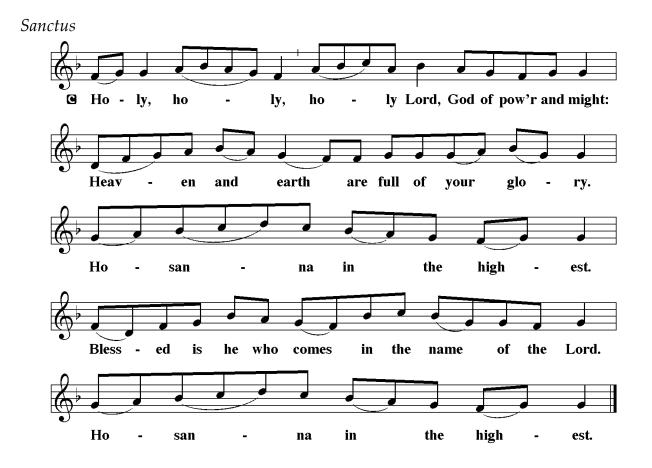
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Dialogue



PREFACE FOR ADVENT

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer I

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

© Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

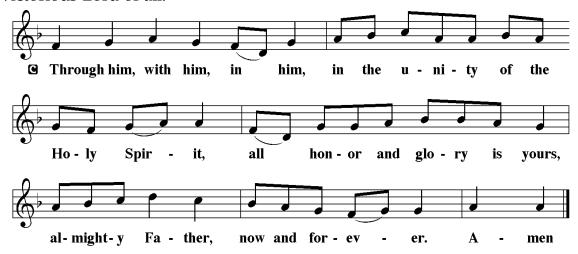
P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

G Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

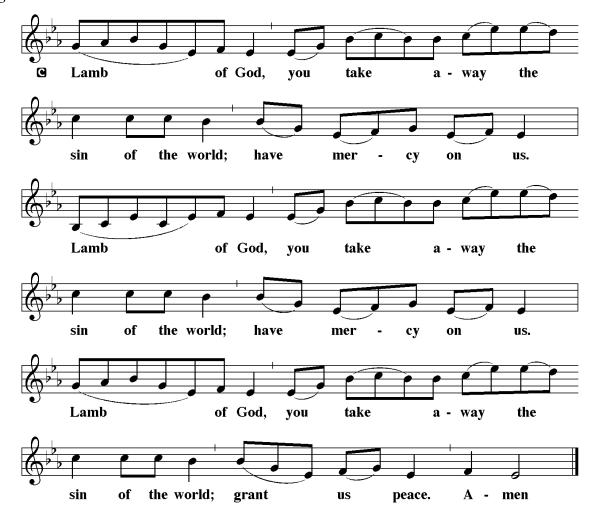


The Lord's Prayer

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.

THE FRACTION. The host is broken.

Agnus Dei



Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

+ If you are home, worshiping online with us, here is a possible "Prayer for Spiritual Communion" lifted up in *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

HYMN LBW 86

The Only Son From Heaven HERR CHRIST DER EINIG GOTTS (Next page)

The Only Son from Heaven



Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, 1500–1535; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt. Music: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN, *Enchiridion*, Erfurt, 1524

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Silence for reflection.

The Sending

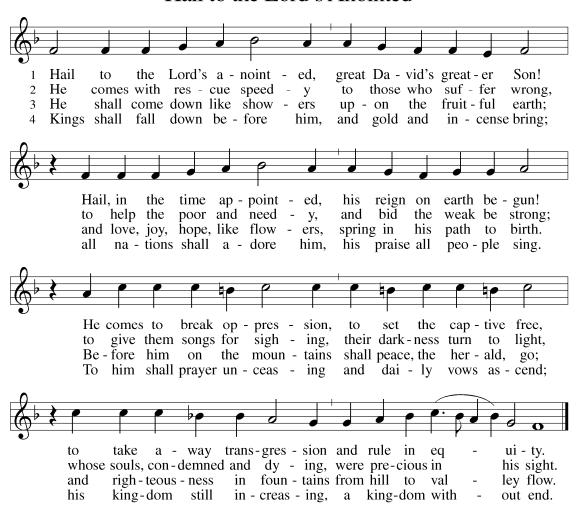
BENEDICTION (Spoken)

HYMN LBW 87

Hail to the Lord's Anointed (Next page)

FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Parish Announcements

+ ABOUT TODAY'S PARAMENTS AND VESTMENTS. The blue paraments and vestments used during Advent are symbolic of hope. We hope for the Christ child to be born in us, and we wait in hope for his return.

- + The ADVENT BANNER. Two trumpets are shown one descending to announce the coming Christ and one ascending in praise for grace and thanksgiving for the coming Kingdom.
- + CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND MUSIC FUND. The church is decorated at Christmas with a lighted tree and poinsettias. Members and friends may wish to place one or more poinsettia plants in the church to honor the memory of departed loved ones or simply as a gift to the glory of God in the incarnate Christ. A gift of \$20.00 for each plant as well as gifts in honor of sacred music here at Immanuel can be given, using the envelope included with this worship folder for your convenience. You may place it in the offering plate or give it to Ester Neubacher between now and December 17.
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Service Notes

Zac Schurman
Kerrigan Bigelow, Teresa Castillo, and Olivia Ericsson
Luz Ortiz, Jazo Ichikawa
Irene Juhasz
Matthias Bhasin
Jeff Rudat
Rev. Lara Bhasin
Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Intercessions

FAIRLY NEW TO THE PRAYER LIST: Timna Rosenheimer (friend of David Kiehl), Melodee Kelly (friend of Thomas Wicks), Susan McIntosh (Richard McIntosh's sister), Celia Cabrera, Minfang Cheng (friend of Louisa Laverde), Stephen and Jean Fischer, Davida Goldman, Sister Angela (friend of Pastor Carol, David Kiehl, and Maria Barbera), LyAsia Beltre and her mother, Ann Wareham, and Sally Graudons.

Some Notes on Our Church Nave and Liturgy

- + Our congregation is one of the historic Lutheran churches in town, going back to the middle of the Civil War, 1863. We are a member of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The national bishop of the NALC is Rev. Daniel Selbo.
- + You might be interested to hear about our reredos — the wooden altarpiece at the front of our church. It was hand carved by artists in Germany's Black Forest. The left statue is Moses, with the Ten Commandments in his left arm and the two horn-like rays of light shining forth from his face after his encounter with the Lord on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:29-30). The right-hand statue is St. John the Evangelist, with a quill pen in his hand and an eagle at his feet. And the center statue is Jesus Christ, the personal unity and the most perfect meaning of the Law (Moses) and the Gospel (St. John).
- + Our painting of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, above the reredos, pays tribute to the founding liturgy of our congregation, Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 1863. Our painting shows Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the ground, so that at first glance you might think that it is a painting of the Ascension. But the saintly company with Jesus Moses and Elijah on either side, with Peter, James, and John fallen down in awe at the sight point to the Transfiguration. Heaven

- knows and gives credit to the anonymous painter of our painting, but we note that it is in the style of Raphael's painting of *The Transfiguration* (1517-1520). Raphael also placed Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the disciples.
- + Our church windows were installed in 1973 and constitute a visual meditation on an ancient hymn of the Church, the *Te Deum*. Pamphlets are available in the rear of the church explaining the windows one by one.
- + Our church bells, named *Glaube*, *Hoffnung*, and *Liebe* for Faith, Hope, and Love, were a gift from German Empress Augusta Viktoria.
- + A hint about acoustics: you will be able to hear the choir and organ better if you sit toward the front half of the church. The overhanging choir balcony obscures some of the beauty of the music for those sitting under it.
- + Our worship book is the green hymnal, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* ("LBW"). This book contains both liturgies and hymns, with liturgies in the first half and hymns in the second. Sometimes we include hymns from *With One Voice* ("WOV") or from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ("ELW").
- + If you have a cell phone, please silence it for the liturgy. And please finish coffee or other drinks out in the narthex rather than in the main nave.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128 ❖ (212) 289-8128 Office Hours: 10 a.m. − 3 p.m. Monday - Friday www.immanuelnyc.org

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION	11 a.m. Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION	6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL	10 a.m. Sundays
BIBLE STUDY	In recess
PARISH SECRETARY	Karen Katz-Shea
SEXTON	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER	Charles Derderian
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER	Zac Schurman
CANTOR	Olivia Ericsson <u>oliviaer@umich.edu</u>
SEMINARY INTERN	Vicar Lara Bhasin
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
PASTOR	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer
Some Parish Ministry Opportunities:	
CHOIR	Organist and Choirmaster Zac Schurman
zac.schurman@juilliard.edu	
MEALS ON HEELS	Barbara Chomko (bchomko@nyc.rr.com)

e extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Carol Fryer. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol. Or you can email her at ceafryer@gmail.com.

- + HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Church's faith, who confess it with us (as in the Creeds), and who may in good conscience receive the Sacrament in keeping with the understanding with which it is celebrated here: namely, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- + HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated and MARRIAGES solemnized only after consultation with the pastor well in advance. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise in need of the ministry of the Church, let us know. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or

- ceafryer@gmail.com.
- → We mean for PRIVATE CONFESSION to be available as often as you need. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gpfryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- + LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR THE SICK is available. Again, simply contact either Pastor Fryer.
- + FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: There is a long line of Christians, both rich and poor, who have disciplined themselves to budget a portion of their income, put it into an offering envelope first thing, and give it to the church. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer live by that tradition and commend it to you. Online giving is also available through our website, or by following this QR code with your phone camera:

