

Christmas is what we make of it.



Despite all the  
distractions, we



can see to it that **CHRIST** is at the  
center of our celebration.

—Thomas S. Monson

**The purpose of our Community is:**  
*“Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ”*

**Prelude***Pianist: Aretta Engelhardt or Shirlene Everhart***Welcome and Announcements****Invocation**

*Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.*

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**[Everyone] Amen.**

**Prayers of Confession:**

**[Everyone] We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for yours. We are lost, in need of guidance.**

*Silent Prayer, concluded with:*

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Words of Assurance:** *[adapted from Titus 3:4-7, The Message]*

*[Pastor] God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.*

**[Everyone] God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.**

*[Pastor] God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives.*

**Opening Hymn***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, #245***We Worship Through Our Giving***We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.***Offertory****We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God***We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.***First Lesson***Philippians 4:4-8 [NLT]*

<sup>4</sup> Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. <sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

**Epistle Lesson***Corinthians 11:24-28 [NLT]*

<sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. <sup>26</sup> I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. <sup>27</sup> I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. <sup>28</sup> Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.

*[Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel]***Gospel Lesson***Mark 13:24-37 [NLT]*

<sup>24</sup> "At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, <sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven. <sup>28</sup> "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know

that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. <sup>32</sup> “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. <sup>33</sup> And since you don’t know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert! <sup>34</sup> “The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. <sup>35</sup> You, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. <sup>36</sup> Don’t let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. <sup>37</sup> I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!”

### ***We Respond to God’s Word by Confessing Our Faith***

*As we recite together the words of the Apostles’ Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.*

**(Everyone) I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

***Sermon Hymn***

*Emmanuel, #243*

***Sermon***

**“Christmas Distractions”**

*Pastor Buchhorn*

**Message Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper***

*Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.*

*Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.*

*Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)*

**[Everyone] 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!**

Distribution

## ***Benediction***

*A blessing we receive to send us out into the world once again.*

## ***Sending Hymn***

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory, #328*

*Pastor: Go In Peace and Serve the Lord!*  
**(Everyone) Thanks be to God**

## ***Postlude***

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## ***Things going on during the week:***

*Please pick up Food Bags today to use or to distribute to others.*

**Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm** Little Blessings Christian Preschool

**Wednesdays: 5 pm - Choir**

**6:00 pm - Potluck; 7 pm - Advent Service**

## ***Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations***

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

**November 28** - First Sunday in Advent

**December 1-22, Wednesdays** - Mid-week Advent Services, 7 pm

**December 4, Saturday** - Women's Bible Study, 10 am. Book of Acts

***December 18, Saturday - Free Food Distribution***--At the Shack from 9 to 10 am. If you know of someone who could benefit from the free food distribution, please let them know. Also, if you can help with set-up, please come at 8:30 am. If you can come later and stay until about 11:00 am to help with putting away leftover food, tables and chairs, your help will be greatly appreciated. *Join us in thanking God for the continuation of this ministry!* The Blue bin on the North wall of the Church is for the collection of can goods for the Food Distribution.

***February 6, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions***

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2020 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.







# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high  
And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

# Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us;  
His name is called Emmanuel.

# There Is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer  
Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

Refrain  
Thank You, oh my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
'Til the work on earth is done.

Jesus my Redeemer,  
Name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Hope for sinners slain.

Refrain

When I stand in Glory,  
I will see His face;  
There I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place.

Refrain

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory

In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me.  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross, the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the cross are sanctified.  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.