

First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

Holden, Massachusetts 01520

(508) 829-4416

www.immanuelholden.org

facebook.com/immanuelholden

instagram.com/ilcholden

*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

Welcome

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

sit

Advent Wreath Lighting *He Came Down* Hymn 253 v. 1
He came down that we might have love; (repeat 2x) hallelujah forevermore.

Children's Chat Marie Vogel
(young worshipers through grade 5 are invited to Children's Word)

stand

Hymn of Praise *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Hymn 242

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come to us. Keep us awake to the threats and dangers of this world. By your merciful protection, keep us in your presence until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Thessalonians 3: 9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that

you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

Hymn 246

Apostles' Creed

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Music

stand

Offertory Canticle

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 257 v. 1

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We thank you for all you have given us. By these gifts we offer now and with our whole selves, may we live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

page 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

page 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace,
grant us peace.**

Communion Hymns

The King Shall Come

Hymn 260

What Feast of Love

Hymn 487

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Benediction

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Hymn 244

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ministers – the people of Immanuel

Pastors – Pastor Sarah Barnes

203-518-0327 | pastor.sarah@immanuelholden.org

Pastor Josh Ferris

360-244-9207 | pastor.josh@immanuelholden.org

Parish Administrator – Jen Langhill (M-Th)

508-829-4416 | office@immanuelholden.org

Music Director – Claire W. Paquette | music@immanuelholden.org

Nursery School Directors – Amy Drzik, Kristine Whittemore

Sexton – Don Roberts

Online Ministry Coordinator – Jennifer Greene

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Josh Greene, Lori Rabeler

Assisting Minister – Karen White

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Bill Lahey

Acolyte – Tommy Wyatt

Greeter – Joyce Kujala

Children's Word – Kathy Cranson & Jen Greene

Coffee Hour – Joy Cohen + volunteer

Altar Guild – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey

Counting Team – Greta & Scott Gridley

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (in gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour
Monday	9:00 am	Lectio Divina (on Zoom)
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Spirituality for the Home Stretch (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Care for Creation Team (on Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Memorial Fund Committee (Room 6)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer (in sanctuary)
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Confirmation (Room 6)
Thursday	10:30 am	Bible Study (on Zoom)
	6:45 pm	CLNS Board Meeting (Room 6)

Sunday 8:00 am Simple Church (inside Chapel/Choir Room)
 9:00 am Indoor & Livestream worship (in sanctuary)
 10:15 am Coffee Hour (in gym)
 10:30 am Learning Hour

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday: Psalm 90, Numbers 17:1-17, 2 Peter 3:1-18
Tuesday: Psalm 90, 2 Samuel 7:18-29, Revelation 22:12-16
Wednesday: Psalm 90, Isaiah 1:24-31, Luke 11:29-32
Thursday: Luke 1:68-79, Malachi 3:5-12, Philippians 1:12-18a
Friday: Luke 1:68-79, Nehemiah 9:16-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
Saturday: Luke 1:68-79, Nehemiah 9:26-31, Luke 21:20-24
Sunday: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Thank you – We thank our guest organist, Bruce Kiefer, for his gift of music this morning.

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Heidi Lahey in loving memory of Liam Michael Lahey and Jennifer Lynn Morse.

Children's Word – After the children's chat, our young friends are invited to go with our volunteers to the gym to worship in their own way. Kids will return in time for communion.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. We thank Joy Cohen for hosting today. (And we would welcome another volunteer helper to serve at the window with Joy today!)

Godly Play – Our youngest learners are invited to join in Classroom 2 at 10:30am to learn more about the season of Advent.

Adult Forum – Advent Reflections – As we begin the Advent Season, Mark Vetter leads a conversation today in Room 6 at 10:30am on the meaning of the season. Grab your coffee and treats, then come join us.

Thanksgiving Eve Service – Thank you to all our thankful speakers last Wednesday night. We are grateful for you!

Advent Evening Prayer Services – You’re invited to join us for Advent Evening Prayer on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:00pm. These simple services will last about half an hour and are a way for us to slow down amidst such a busy season and focus our hearts on what matters most: the birth and coming of Jesus. At each service, we’ll sing through the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy and hear a brief reflection.

Advent Calendar – To help families mark time this season, there are Advent Calendars available by the entrance. Each day has an activity or conversation prompt to do together as a family. Color it in as you go and create a beautiful night sky filled with bright stars! Take an extra for a friend! We can print as many as we need.

Advent Devotional – For anyone looking to set aside time for prayer and reflection during this holy season, we encourage you to read *The Weary World Rejoices*, an Advent devotional by Kate Bowler. You can find a link to this resource on the Immanuel website.

Giving Tree – The Giving Tree is up in Lawson Hall! All are invited to take a tag and buy a gift for the ministries we support here at ILC (IHN, Florence House, and Kids Express). Gifts are due back on Tuesday, December 10.

Christmas Poinsettias – All are invited to help decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas Eve! Use the insert in today’s bulletin to place your order. Cost is \$20 each and orders are due in by Sunday, December 15.

Weaving Love that Will Not End – Around the sanctuary, you’ll find strips of fabric and markers. Please share anything you (or someone else) did this week that brought more love, joy, or peace into the world. Return all fabric to the offering plate or the basket near the loom. May all these actions be to God’s glory, and a prayer for the world we seek!

Please Return Estimate of Giving Cards – Thank you to everyone who has returned their ‘Estimate of Giving’ card. So far we’ve received 118 and hope to get about 8 more. If you haven’t done so already, please fill out a card and return it as soon as possible. This helps us plan and budget responsibly and faithfully for the year ahead.

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 9:00–9:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 814 8663 8380 Passcode: scripture)

Spirituality for the Home Stretch – Join us on Tuesday, December 3 at 1:00pm in the choir room as we finish discussing *Wearing God* by Lauren Winner and select our next book together.

Care for Creation Team – The Care for Creation team will meet on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30pm. This time our meeting is on Zoom only. Please use this link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86845139640>

Confirmation – Confirmation will meet after Advent Evening Prayer on Wednesday, December 4. We’ll gather in Room 6 as we discuss Jesus’s Temptation in the Wilderness.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Join us on Thursdays at 10:30am as we learn and grow together! We meet on Zoom and here is the link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597>.

Adult Forum – Our Kairos Moment: A Study on Earth’s Climate Crisis – Join Jed Lindholm on December 8 and 15 as he leads a discussion on the Climate Crisis and our place and how we connect as people of faith to the growing environmental need around us.

Coffee Hour Cookie Swap – On December 15, we’re swapping cookies at coffee hour! Everyone is encouraged to bring two containers with them – one filled with cookies and an empty container to fill up with a variety of other cookies! (All are invited to eat cookies, even if you can’t bring a batch!)

Christmas Caroling – We are planning to go Christmas Caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 15 from 4:00-6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to join us including your friends and neighbors. Be sure to dress in layers, wear

a hat and gloves/mittens. We'll meet in the parking lot at church around 4:00 and team up--people with vans will be asked to help transport. Also, if you can think of someone who would like a visit, send their name(s) to Jen in the office. Afterwards, we could warm up with cocoa and cookies. For questions, please see Kathy Cranson.

Senior Luncheon – Save the date! Jim and Thea will host a Christmas Senior Luncheon on Thursday, December 19. The sign-up sheet is posted in Lawson Hall. We're so looking forward to gathering together!

Book Club – For December, we're reading and discussing *The Toa of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff. Join us for discussion on Thursday, December 19 at 6:00pm.

Staff Christmas (message from Greg Mills) – Immanuel Lutheran Church & Nursery School's staff provide vital support to our everyday mission of serving God, our members, and the community. Each holiday season, we recognize their hard work with a Christmas Brunch and a gift.

You're invited to make give to the **ILC Staff Christmas Fund**, which will be shared with our paid staff. You can use the envelope in your packet or get a check to the office marked "Staff Christmas gift." All gifts received by December 22 will be distributed this year. While this fund is a collective gift to our staff, it's also fine to make a direct gift to a staff member if you wish. Thank you for your support in again recognizing our staff's faithful work. Call Greg (774-239-8587) with any questions.

This year's **Staff Christmas Brunch will be** Wednesday, December 18. We welcome any donations of baked goods or special breakfast/brunch items. Please let the church office know if you wish to contribute something. Items can be dropped off on Tuesday, December 17 between 9:00-3:30 or call Greg (774-239-8587) to arrange another time.

Women's Prayer & Share – We won't gather in December due to the holiday business, but we'll meet again on Saturday, January 11 at 10:00am in the Choir Room.

Women's Circle – We will not meet in December but save a date in January 2025! We'll have our annual Potluck Lunch and Yankee Swap on Monday, January 13 at noon here at ILC. Join us for lunch and laughs!

Stephen Ministry – Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time. Please let one of the pastors know if you or someone you know could benefit from talking to a Stephen Minister.

Kit assembly – We recently assembled 45 school kits and 45 homeless kits. We have enough supplies to make 55 more of each kit, but we need Chapstick for the homeless kits as well as scissors and crayons for the school kits. Scissors should be blunt, and crayons should be 16 or 24 per box.

Collecting Period Products – We continue to collect unscented pads and tampons of all sizes and brands (the collection bin is in Lawson Hall).

Communion Kits – Personal kits are available in the locker outside Lawson Hall. Each kit contains a pre-packaged wafer & grape juice.

Flower Note – The new 2025 altar flower calendar is up in Lawson Hall! To sign up simply put your name on the calendar date, fill out a purple slip, attach your payment (made out to ILC), and submit to the church office. The price of our altar flowers is \$45 for each Sunday's centerpiece.

2025 Giving envelopes – Next year's giving envelopes are available in Lawson Hall. Feel free to grab yours today. This saves us quite a bit in postage, which continues to go up! If you don't need any envelopes because you give electronically, please let us know & we'll save some paper.

In Your Prayers this Week

This week, please lift up to God those who have requested our prayers:

David Alward, Bruce Axelson, Isaac Barron, Mary Beams, Jane Bedard, Heide & Bob, Grace Bialecki, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Ken Cameron, Betty Chviruk, Ed & the Clarke family, Ben Cranson, Colleen Davison, Barbara Demont, Kevin Duguay, Jaeger Dziama, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Ann Marie Grambo, Bill, Erika, Robin Johns, Ken Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Mackenzie Keogh, Sara Kern, Carole Laino, Bev Landquist, Jean Lane, Tim Langhill, Jeannie Larson, Jeff Larson, Ayuen Leet, Meghan MacDonald, Kurt Mangsen, Joe Martire, James Mellor, Joanne Neal, Francis Parretti, Ernie Pearlstein, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Kathy Richardson, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Donald Shefer, Wendy, Diane Smith, Shirley Smith, Will, Bob Vandal, Elaine Vetter, Donna Vilian, Liz Wilson, Jim Zelesky, Don and Jill Zitzewitz.



Christmas Eve Worship schedule

1:00pm - Traditional Christmas Eve worship (also online)

4:30pm - Family Christmas Eve worship

11:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

all services include holy communion