



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



DECEMBER 10, 2025

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

“WELCOMING EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

7:00 PM

Advent offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Trio on ‘Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Tune ES IST EIN ROS 15th century German carol; Organ setting by David Lasky

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as you are able

Gathering Litany

The pastor begins

In this Advent season, a voice cries in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

preparing us for the birth of Jesus the Savior of the world.

In this Advent season, we await Emmanuel: God with us.

In a world of isolation and exclusion, competition and fear,

we await Emmanuel: God with us,

who will open our hearts to God and to our neighbor.

In a world that races after money and success,

that hoards and consumes,

we await Emmanuel who will help us share with others,

who will scatter the proud and fill the hungry with good things.

In a world that hides from death by pursuing youth and beauty,

we await Emmanuel who gives us true life amid places of despair and death

so that we might give life and hope to others.

In a world where many live in darkness, war, and destruction,

we await Emmanuel who will guide our feet in the way of peace,

who forgives our sins so that we might forgive others,

who dwells in us so that we might be his light in the darkness.

Lord God, bless our time of Advent watching and waiting.

Reveal to us your love for this world in Jesus Christ

and help us to be Christ to others.

You call all people your children. As we wait, help us to see ourselves and our neighbors as beloved members of your holy family.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

The assembly joins together in the song below.

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” ELW 272 stanzas 1 & 2

ES IST EIN ROS

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2
Music: *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.

Thanksgiving for the Family of God

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God,

for you have created humanity in your own image

and breathed into us the breath of life

by which we all become living beings.

You are the God of all nations, welcoming all people,

the hungry, the stranger, the sick and the outcast,

because we are all your children, beloved members of your family.

May Emmanuel, God with us, be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

this we pray through your Son Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Silence

During this time of silence we quiet ourselves, entering into the mystery of God's presence. The beginning and the end of this period of silence is marked with the sound of a bell.

Responsive Reading Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴**And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the Lord;**
call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Reading Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Advent Reflection

"Do not be afraid"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Canticle

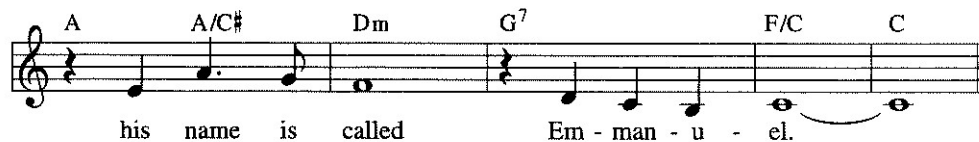
"Emmanuel"

Bob McGee

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B^b
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C[#] Dm G⁷ G/B C
his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B^b
God with us, re - vealed in us;



Prayers

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Emmanuel, God with us, for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, all of creation, the church, and the coming of your kingdom.

A brief silence.

We pray for those who are lonely, fearful, or struggling to know their worth, that they would receive comfort. As the angel met Joseph in his real-life fears, help us to listen for God in our lives so that strengthened by him, we might respond to and help those in need around us.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for those who do not have enough, that they would receive what they need, and for those who have more than enough, that they would find joy in sharing from their abundance. As Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, not knowing where they would stay, you provided for them. Help us as your church to continue to provide food, clothing, and a warm place to stay for many who live on the margins in our community.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for those who face illness, pain, grief, or death, that they would be held in your love. Help all caregivers to embody your presence of hope and love toward all whom they care for, and as Joseph listened to your voice, help them to listen for you that they might know how to respond to all whom they care for.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for creation, that all people might treat it with reverence, gratitude, and care, and receive its life-giving gifts with thanksgiving and gratitude. Bless us to use your gifts wisely and generously so that all people might know your abundant and saving power.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray that all people, made in your image, would be transformed to embody your Son Jesus Christ, who was born to reveal you as a light to the nations. Lord, rouse us from the sleep of neglect, fear, and apathy to see your image anew in the faces of our neighbors and “the least of these,” so that we also might realize our own spiritual and physical poverty and need of you.

In your mercy,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

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

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May God's peace attend you this night;
whatever challenges you face, know that you are not alone;
whatever divisions you face, know that you are a child of God;
whatever fears you have, know that you are surrounded by God's family;
May Emmanuel, God with us, bless you;
and may Christ the Prince of Peace grant you peace.
In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279 stanzas 1 & 4

ST. LOUIS

Text & Music: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Dismissal

Go in peace knowing that Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, goes with you.

Thanks be to God.



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen;
musician: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

St. Mark's Prayer List

Rochelle Dagenhart, Janice Darnell, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres & Silvia Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!			
ADVENT AT ST. MARK'S	11 / 30, 12 / 7, 14, 21	Sundays of Advent 8:30 & 10:30 am	
	12 / 3, 10, 17	Advent Midweek Worship 7 pm	
CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S	12 / 24	Christmas Eve	5 pm Family Christmas 8:30 pm Nativity of Our Lord Holy Communion. Music begins at 8 pm
	12 / 28	First Sunday of Christmas 10:30 am only	
WINTER MUSICAL OFFERINGS	12 / 7	"Lessons and Carols" - 10:30 am Service	
	12 / 12	Carolina Pro Musica Christmas Concert 7:30 pm	
	12 / 14	Christmas Soprano Concert 2 pm	
	12 / 21	Queen City Ringers "A Winter Star" 5 pm	

Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Rev. Alexandra Rode, Associate Pastor
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Lester Ackerman,
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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator
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finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org