

# Emmanuel Church

The Episcopal Church on Mercer Island



*Nativity*, tempera and gold on wood, Italian, 14<sup>th</sup> century, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST ON  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

## Welcome Guests & Visitors

**+ Welcome to the Episcopal Church.** The mission of the Episcopal Church, as stated in our Book of Common Prayer, is “*to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.*” We seek to follow Jesus in loving and life-giving relationships with God, with one another, with all people, and with all God’s creation. Our worship, beliefs and practices are diverse and reflect influences from Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions as well as on going reflection and prayer about what it means to believe in and follow Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing world. We Episcopalians are also known as Anglicans, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion with origins and ongoing ties to the Church of England.

**+ Welcome to Emmanuel Episcopal Church.** We trace our history on Mercer Island to a first worship service in 1909 and to a prior church building, built in 1914, in an area of the island once known as East Seattle. We have met, worshiped, served at and gone forth in faith from the present church since 1959.

**+ Welcome to Our Worship Today.** The order for worship that we call the Holy Eucharist is printed, with music, on the following pages. It begins with the Liturgy of the Word: Bible readings, a sermon, an affirmation of faith, prayers, and greeting one another at the Peace. All this prepares us for the Eucharist itself — the word is derived from the biblical Greek word for thanksgiving. Here and elsewhere it may also be called Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper or the Mass.

**+ Welcome to Communion.** The Real Presence of Christ in the blessed bread and wine is a primary belief in our Anglican tradition. Here at Emmanuel, any and all who are drawn to do so may receive Communion. Additional notes may be found at the appropriate place in today’s printed order of worship.

**+ Welcome to Getting Around Here.**

◆ **Our nursery and ministries with young children** are offered in various ways at various times. Please inquire with an usher, the clergy or other parents, or look for information on our website.

◆ **An accessible restroom** may be found across from the stairway outside the west doors of the narthex (the gathering area just beyond the doors of the church proper). Other restrooms may be found up the ramp and stairs at the east side of the narthex.

◆ **Hearing assistance devices**, with related instructions, may be found in and borrowed from a basket on a narthex table.

*Please let us know how we may better welcome you.*

## Worship and Pastoral Notes

### A Special Welcome

Merry Christmas! We at Emmanuel recognize that our Christmas worship services uniquely include visitors, returning members, travelers and others. Some of you will feel right at home here, and we’re grateful. If ‘all of this’ is new or unfamiliar, we hope you will take to heart and appreciate what is easy to follow and meaningful and not worry too much for now about the rest. Please feel free, after the service this evening or another time, to share your questions about the Episcopal Church, our faith and worship, or this Emmanuel parish family.



### Some Christmas History

Did you know? Early Christians did not initially commemorate Jesus’ birth. Worship of a seasonal nature for the first Christians focused on remembering Christ’s death and resurrection. It was not until the 4th century that December 25 was designated as the Feast of the Nativity and widely celebrated. The date was likely chosen because it aligned with existing winter solstice festivals.

Aspects of our faith and spiritual devotion unique to Christmas arise from accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Taken together, they tell of the anticipation of Christ’s birth in prophecy and Jesus’ humble birth in Bethlehem, announced by angels and witnessed by shepherds and wise men.

Over time, many traditions developed, both with reference to and in anticipation of Christmas. These often incorporate cultural influences from around the world. Examples include Advent calendars, crèches, poinsettias, sung carols, and, yes, Christmas trees. Unifying themes of these traditions are hope, joy, family and community connections, and God’s gift of salvation in Christ.

The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Interim Rector  
patrick@emmanuelmi.org

# THE WORD OF GOD



*Please stand, as able, when the ministers enter.*

## THE SALUTATION AND THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE: *THE GLORIA* *Said by all.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us Pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 9:2-7 *Please sit.*

*Lector* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the  
day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 96 *Cantate Domino* *Read responsively by half-verse.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **A READING FROM THE EPISTLES – Titus 2:11-14**

*Lector* A reading from The Epistle of St. Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



## THE HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-20

*All standing, the Priest says to the People*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*After the Gospel the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON – The Reverend Patrick Raymond

## THE NICENE CREED

*The Book of Common Prayer*

*All stand, as able, and say together*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

*Leader* Christ our Savior is born: let us worship him with the shepherds; proclaim him with the angels; seek him with the wise; offer ourselves to him with Mary and Joseph, and now together pray to our God: That the people of this world may know your redeeming power and love, O Lord. *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*Leader* That the whole church and all faithful people may work for the coming of your kingdom. *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*Leader* That the light of your presence may scatter the darkness and bring justice and peace to all people. *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*Leader* That with joy and thanksgiving our lives may proclaim your grace and glory; *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*Leader* That the sick may be comforted, the hungry and homeless, fed and sheltered. Let us remember in particular at this time those for whom our prayers have been asked, including \_\_\_\_\_, and others we now name aloud or remember silently. *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*Leader* That all prisoners, captives and those who are oppressed may find freedom in you. *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*Leader* That all who have died may be born to new life in you; including \_\_\_\_\_, and others we now name aloud or remember silently. *Silence.* Christ our savior is born;

*People* **O come let us adore him.**

*The Celebrant may add the following or another Collect.*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore; Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations serve you, all tongues confess and bless you, and all people everywhere love you and show forth your justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.** *Please share the Peace of Christ with others.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*Part of our spiritual practice as Christians is to support the mission of the church through financial donations. You can give in the plate or online using PayPal. To donate via PayPal, simply scan this QR code and follow the instructions.*



*Some information on receiving Communion may be on page 15.*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People*** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

***People*** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People*** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven 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.**

*The People stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and, after a period of silence, says*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**



*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to participate in communion at Emmanuel. Primarily our communion takes place at the altar rail. You can stand or kneel. If you want to abstain from the bread or wine, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If the steps to the altar rail present a challenge for you, you may stand at the bottom of the stairs, or ask an usher to have communion brought to you in your seat.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*The Celebrant says* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING** *Said by the Celebrant, all responding 'Amen' after each portion.*

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*The Celebrant or another clergy person offers the Dismissal, to which all respond:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERVING THIS MORNING**

*Eucharistic Minister* – Debbie Wiegand

*Technology* – Nick Bohlinger

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

## *Thanksgivings & Memorials*



Anne & Allan Affleck	In loving memory of our parents; and in thanksgiving for our family.
Barb and David Beatty	In loving memory of our parents, John & Margaret Beatty, Gwen & Ron Stockwell, and Carol Spence.
Pat Angell & Mark Hall	In loving memory of Tom Angell, Bette & Howard Angell, Mary & Hoddy Hall, Dorian & Bob Bersos.
Pam Henderson	In thanksgiving for my family and friends.
Eugenie Ihle	In thanksgiving for the Eschbach and Ihle families.
Mary Kraft	In loving memory of George Kraft, husband, father, and grandfather, Mary, John, and Susannah
Jane Morton	In loving memory of Karen Rowley.
Roy Palmer	In loving memory of Joyce Palmer.
Brooke & Patrick Raymond	In thanksgiving for Eliot, Owen, and Grace, and all the people of Emmanuel Church.
Vyvienne Stumbles	In thanksgiving for family members.
Lucy Vedrich	In loving memory of Tony Vedrich and in thanksgiving for my family; Amanda Vedrich, Lisa, Jim, Sam, and Eli Price.
Peggy & John Way	In thanksgiving for our children & grandchildren; Cameron, Anne, Maddy, Adie, Brian, Briana, Astrid, and Clover.

### Clergy & Staff

Rev. Patrick Raymond - Interim Rector  
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Rev. Brian Gregory - Associate Rector  
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Fred McIlroy - Director of Music  
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Julene Levin - Office Administrator  
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John Pritchard - Bookkeeper  
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### Vestry of the Church

Polly Ogden – Senior Warden  
Jon Fedele – Junior Warden  
Bob Baxter  
Janet Bell  
Nick Bohlinger  
Christine Kenyon  
Jeff Zantek  
Barb Shephard – Clerk  
Sue Stiles – Treasurer

Have a Question for the Vestry of the Church?  
AskVestry@EmmanuelMI.org



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