



# Christmas Eve

Candlelight Festival Service of Worship

MINISTERS:

The People of Emanuel

THE STAFF:

Senior Pastor  
Visitation Pastor  
Director of Christian Education  
Director of Music  
Assistant Director of Music  
Administrative Assistant  
Sexton  
Ministerial Assistant  
Director of Operations  
Coordinator of Ministries

The Rev. John A. F. Corgan  
The Rev. John J. Marschhausen  
Natalie Bloomquist, A.I.M.  
Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Katie Cox  
Karen Rudewicz  
Rachid Chelali  
Vicar Dominic Smyth  
Jane Wunder  
Becki Murphy



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*Growing in Faith Together.*

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106, 860-525-0894

[www.emanuelhartford.org](http://www.emanuelhartford.org)



THE MISSION OF  
EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In response to Christ's love we:

**Worship God** in joyful celebration,  
**Invite others** into this community of Christ,  
**Serve those in need** in the community and in the world,  
**Nurture all people** in faith through Christian education,  
**Encourage and support one another** in Christian living and fellowship.

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December 24, 2015 ✦ 11:00 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Hartford, Connecticut

## W E L C O M E T O E M A N U E L !

The presence of all who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshipping the Lord on this glorious night. Welcome, friends! May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all, now and always. If you have any questions or need assistance of any kind, please see an usher or the pastor.

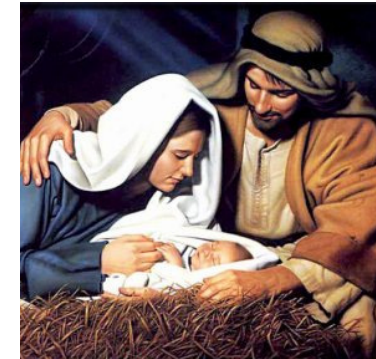
**Holy Communion** — (by intinction) All who are baptized and believe that with the bread and wine come also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are invited to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please come forward using the center aisle where there will be two lines of communicants. After you receive the wafer, dip it into either the chalice of wine or goblet of white grape juice. Then return to your pew using a side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, inform one of the ushers and they will have the sacrament brought to your pew.

**Large print bulletins** — available from the ushers.

**Photographs and Electronic Devices** — In the spirit of worship, please refrain from taking photographs during the service. Also, please turn off all cell phones and other devices during worship. Thank you !

### **Distribution of Christmas Poinsettias**

Are you willing to deliver a poinsettia to a member or friend of Emanuel? The poinsettias and cards with names and addresses can be picked up **tonight after this service**. The cards will be in Luther Hall.



*Merry* Christmas!

## T H O S E S E R V I N G T O N I G H T

Presiding Minister ..... The Rev. John A. F. Corgan  
Assisting Minister ..... Vicar Dominic Smyth  
Director of Music..... Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Assistant Music Director .....Katie Cox  
Musicians..... Sarah Asmar, Emanuel Choir,  
..... Emanuel Bell Choir, Emanuel Brass Ensemble  
Communion Preparer.....Rae Ann Gremel  
Lectors.....Kathy Haller and Janice Favreau  
Sound and Recording ..... Tyler Gabriel  
Greeters.....The Corgan family

### *M*anger Scene Playsets

Many thanks to Megan Murphy who did the good work of cutting out the manger scene playsets that are in the ziplocs given out to each family tonight.

## 2015 Christmas Memorials

### ***In Honor/Memory of:***

“Grannie” Kathryn Irene Oberg

Leonard Olson

Our dear departed loved ones

Our parents

Our parents

Our parents

Our parents, Joseph and Claire Bellis and  
the Rev. Edward R. Hanson and Ruby Hanson

Our son, Dale Dennler and his grandparents,  
Ruth and Gus Dennler and  
Hildur and Torsten Johnson

Parents, John and Borghild Bloomquist and  
Arthur and Gerda Hedin

Karen Pergande and in honor of her sisters

Rev. Stanley and Gladys Sandberg

Amy J. Smith

Thomas D. Smith

Inge Swanback

Albert and Bernice Swanson

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Swanson  
and Ernest B. Swanson

Kenneth Swanson, Sr.

Their parents, Lilly and Eric Johanson  
and Constance and Leland Parmelee

With Praise for the Corgan Family

Robert S. Zyko

### ***Given by:***

The Murphy family

His loving family

Shirley August and Peg Zachariassen

Lynn and Lee Sherman

Charles and Rebecca Thomas

Bob and Rosie Vojtek

The Bellis family

Carol and Brad Dennler

Cliff and Myrtle Bloomquist

Ramona and Harlan Pergande

Ken and Karin Stetson and family

Ross and Susan Smith

Ross and Susan Smith

Her family: Bill, Carl, and Debra

Swanson, Smith and Caracuzzi family

Carol and Stanley G. Johnson, Jr.

Ann Louise Swanson

Arlene and David Parmelee

Glenna and Chet Brodnicki

Lance Hansen

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*Prayers and responses for the congregation are shown in bold print.*

**†***Please rise as you are able.*

### **Christmas Prelude Music**

*Christmas Selections*

Emanuel Brass Ensemble

*Have You Heard?*

Emanuel Choir

*Rejoice*

Sarah Asmar, *soprano*

*Hosianna*

Emanuel Choir

### **Welcome**

Pastor Corgan

### **†Entrance Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

### **†Greeting**

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**O come let us adore him.**

May the light and peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## †Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please be Seated)*

## Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## 2015 Christmas Memorials

### *In Honor/Memory of:*

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Johnson, Sr.

Wanda Kasmarzyk

Richard Leich

Gilbert and Carolyn Liljedahl

Irene V. Lindholm

G. Arnold and Linnea Lindquist

Loved ones

Loved ones

Loved ones

Loved ones

Loved ones

Harold E. and  
Jessie Magnuson

Miriam and Harris Magnusson

James P. McCann

Mebret's family in Ethiopia

Mary Meyers

Rev. Eugene F. Mitchell

My Dad and Mom, Arvid and Helen  
Carlson

My loving, dedicated parents  
Viola and Ralph Hattie

Gerald Prentice and Marguerite  
Johnson Nye

### *Given by:*

Carol and Stanley G. Johnson, Jr.

Bill, Sue, Laura, Chris, and Russ

Rob and Kristina

Richard and Russell Liljedahl and families

Ross and Susan Smith

Edward and Susan Maher  
Dale, Marion, John and Kirsten Lindquist

Barb and Rick Berg

Pauline Cochrane

Susan and Richard Johnson

Elaine and Sara Strecker

Susan Wilson

The Obadowski and Pellegato families

Their niece, Karin Stetson and family

Lorraine and family

Mebret and Patti Farquhar

Eleanor and Mal Doyle

His family

Daughter, Betty-Lois

Their daughter, Carolyn W. Hattie at  
Hughes Health and Rehab

The Nye Corgan family

## 2015 Christmas Memorials

<i><b>In Honor/Memory of:</b></i>	<i><b>Given by:</b></i>
Gunnar and Stella Aronson, Russell and Elin Bjorklund	The Bjorklund family
Brenda	Her mother and sister
Donna D. Casciano	Chris and Claudia Bellis
Francis John Corgan	Pastor Corgan
Francis John Henry and Bertha Stoutland Corgan	The Nye Corgan family
Rich Czernicki	Lance and Valerie Hansen
Departed loved ones	Joan Feldmann
Francis R. Dunne, Marion and William Wieber, Robert Labriola	The Wieber family
Family and friends	Paul and Lynne Strecker
Arlene P. Glock and Edward A. Glock, Jr.	The Glock family
Tyler, Jason and Jeremy Steven	Andy and Nancy Gray
Florence Hanson	Arnold, Shirley, Rob and Kristina
Elaine, Allen, Jeff, Anna and Folke Heline	Susan and John Franzis
His Parents and Brother	Karin and Kenneth Stetson and family
Bob Johnson	Lance and Valerie Hansen
George G. Johnson, E. Louisa B. Johnson, Mary and Ray LeFrancois, Beatrice and Walter Turner	Lanie and Russ Turner and Len and Loretta Johnson
Eric W. Johnson, Sr.	Anna-Lisa Johnson, Eric and Marie, Rebecca and Samantha Johnson
Helge R. Johnson	His wife, Edith and family
Richard R. Johnson, Jr.	Susan and Richard Johnson

## †Hymn

*Joy to the World*

Hymn 267

## †Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



†**Gospel Response**      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*      Hymn 275, v. 3-4

**The Christmas Hymn**      *Once in Royal David's City*      Hymn 269

**Sermon** (*please be seated*)      *"Christmas Cheer?"*      **Pastor Corgan**

### †**The Prayers**

*After each prayer petition:*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### †**Confessions and Forgiveness**

P: Knowing that our God is merciful, we confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: God of redemption,

**C: Despite your abundant blessings, we continue to fall short of your expectations. We fail to act and speak with compassion and humility. Forgive all that we have said and done, or have failed to say or do. Save us from our sin, and claim us as your own. Amen.**

P: Our generous God is forgiving and loving. All that we have done or failed to do is behind us, and today we are given new life. Receive the entire forgiveness of all your sins, and live in the light of your new life, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### †**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(please be seated)*

### **Offering**

*Noel*

Emanuel Choir

### **A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson:**

Loving God,  
help us to remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



### **A Prayer Before Opening Presents:**

Dear Jesus, Thank you for being born on that first Christmas. Be with us as we celebrate your birthday. As we open our gifts help us remember that you were the first and greatest gift. Do not let us ignore the true reason for our celebration, but like Mary help us ponder all this in our hearts and be ready to go out into the world proclaiming the Good News. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Christmas Dinner Prayers:**

In the peace of this season our spirits are joyful: with the beasts and angels, the shepherds and stars, with Mary and Joseph we sing God's praise. By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may all tables and homes be blessed. Amen.

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. We remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving, and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give thanks on this Christmas and always. Amen.

Please join us:

### First Sunday of Christmas Worship, December 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Emanuel will be honored to have **College Students and Young Adults** participate in the worship life of the congregation as ushers, lectors, greeters, assisting ministers, choir members and other ways as needed. What a great way to end the year! Also, after service at **11:30 a.m.**, all **College Students and Young Adults** are invited to join **Vicar Dominic Smyth and others at Pepe's in West Hartford**. Please **RSVP** with Vicar Dominic Smyth at **215-820-9113** or [dominic.smyth@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:dominic.smyth@emanuelhartford.org).



### New Year's Eve Worship, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.

#### Celebrate New Year's Eve at Emanuel!

Once again, we are offering a unique way to usher in the New Year. Come to church on **Thursday, December 31, at 5:00 p.m.** for a short 20 minute family oriented service. Then join us in Luther Hall for hot chocolate and cookies. At 5:40 p.m. we will walk across the street to enjoy the First Night fireworks display behind the Capitol Building. **If you happen to have any leftover Christmas cookies that you would be willing to share, please bring them with you to the service. What a fun way to close 2015 and welcome 2016. Please join us.**

### Offering Prayer

God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### †Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.  
**C: And also with you**  
P: Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**  
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**  
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### †Holy, Holy, Holy (sung to the tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and God of Might  
Heav'n and earth declare Your glory, All the world is filled with light  
Save, Hosanna, people cry  
Born that we no more may die  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

### †Words of Institution

### †Lord's Prayer

## Communion Distribution

*All who are baptized and believe that with the bread and wine come also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are invited to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

**For those who need gluten-free Communion:** *Gluten-free wafers, which are in a separate container, are offered on a special tray, along with contaminant-free glasses of wine and grape juice. Please indicate your need to the Communion Servers.*

## †Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

## †Post-Communion Prayer

Gracious God, in the incarnation of your Son you have united earth and heaven. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## †Distribution of the Light

*The ministers light a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

## †Hymn of Light: ***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## †Christmas Benediction

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. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you this night and always. **Amen.**

*(please extinguish all candles)*

## †Hallelujah Chorus: **All are welcome to participate!**

Postlude

*Christmas Jazz*

Emanuel Brass Ensemble

**A Merry and Blessed Christmas to all!**