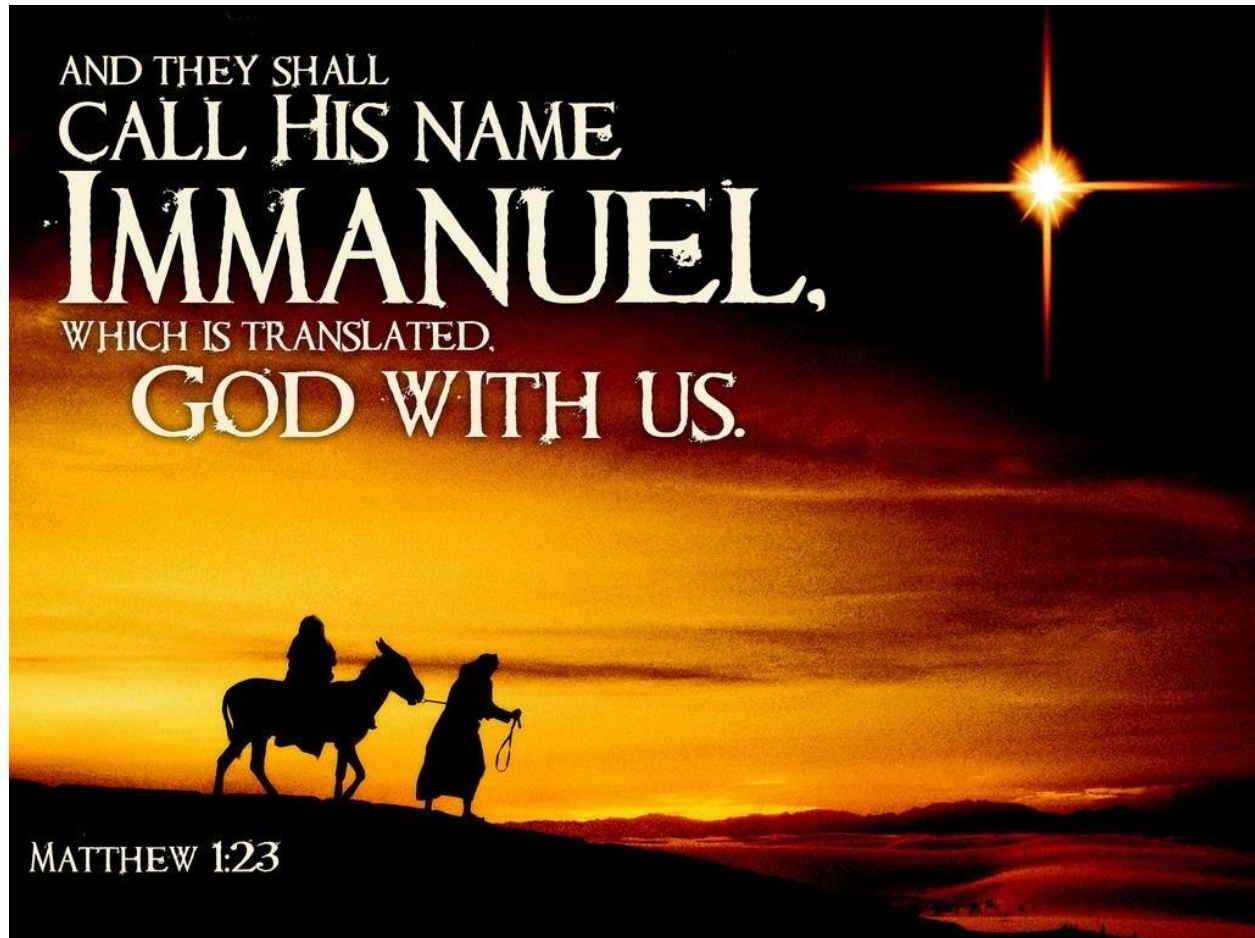


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2022

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER: *Don & Sarge*

We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—*the candle of love*. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (all verses)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (JEFFERSON)* (all verses)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

CHOIR CANTATA *Celebrate The Child* **By Tom Fetkee**

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: God, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY (SUNG) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

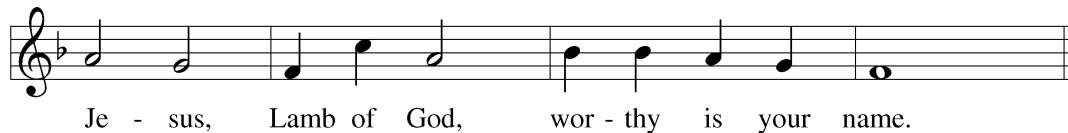
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the tray. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the pastor when you come forward.

COMMUNION SONG (sung twice)



Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all"
Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

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HYMN DURING COMMUNION *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (all verses)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you
with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *The King Shall Come* (all verses) The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist Doug Mummert
Head Usher Barbara Aldrich
Acolyte Sarah Aldrich
Securing Offering Ilona Laney & Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up Peggi Norman
Communion Clean-Up Peggi Norman
Communion Bread Janice McEntire
Communion Assist Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday 56

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of our wedding anniversary given by Bill & Lilly Chiado.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Prayer requests for the following *Family and Friends of Barbara Beckner, Kathy Wishard, Peggi Norman, John Fickling, Doc Ensinger, Chole, Jan Horst, Sr. Barbara Barry, Greg Steinour, Betty Amt, Tana Vance, Jim and Carole Darr, Tracy Fredericks, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Jenny Barnes, Ray Rotz, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Patricia Yetter, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Darrell Veilleux, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: At the beginning of the year, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Saturday, December 24th

Worship with Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.

Pre-service music begins at 7:20 p.m.

Cancellation Notification: In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon's Facebook page, Solomon's Website, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. Remember for events like Mid-Week Bible Study, if the schools are closed for weather, then the event is cancelled. Please always use your own judgement about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

Pastor Barb will be on vacation December 26 - January 1. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, notify Ron Coldsmith, congregation president.

No Kids or Adult Sunday School on Sunday's December 18, 25 & January 1st.

Spiritrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has Discount Cards available for \$3.00 each. The cards are good through June 30, 2023. If interested see Becky Pecha.

Youth Party Sunday January 22, 2023 - We will have a Youth Party after Church on January 22nd. Lunch Menu: Make your own pizzas, chips, veggie tray, cookies, chocolate covered pretzel rods and drink. We will make a craft. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Sunday School room.

Apple Butter - We still have Apple Butter for sale. Please see Zoe Mummert if you're interested.

Thank you to Wayne & Marjorie Dale for donating the Christmas Tree this year.

Communion Cards – in order to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. If you would like to save money by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly.

Christmas Card Tree – Again this year there will be a Christmas tree in the old Sunday School room to display Christmas cards. Instead of giving out individual cards to each member, just send one card to “All Solomon’s Members.” Starting today, a box will be placed near the tree for you to place your cards. Tree Coordinators Lilly and Bill Chiado will then place the cards on the tree. The idea is that the money saved by not having to purchase so many cards can be donated to a worthy cause such as our church or your favorite charity. We hope that everyone will participate.

Where do you see God? Solomons will use Advent this year to help open our eyes to notice God active in our lives today. Each Sunday of Advent, we’ll take time during the sermon to write our "God moments" on a piece of paper and place them in the bag by the door when we leave. On Christmas Eve, we’ll place the box under the Advent Wreath with a prayer of Thanksgiving for the many ways in which God is present. You can also call the church office to add your God moments to the box.

You are invited to Bible Study from 10 to 11 each Wednesday in the Conference Room of the Fellowship Center. This year we are praying through the Psalms. Each week is stand-alone so come when your schedule permits. Christian Ed is a life-long journey of discovering who God is and who are as followers of Jesus. Making time to learn God's Word is a mark of discipleship. Hope to see you there!

Hurricane Relief: In response to Hurricane Ian, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is partnering with the Florida-Bahamas, Southeastern, North Carolina and South Carolina synods, as well as Lutheran Services Carolinas, to provide both immediate and long-term support. LDR anticipates relief will include water, food supplies, tarps, cleaning materials and other needs for those who have lost or damaged homes. **Please hold the victims and relief workers daily in your prayers.** Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to provide aid. **Prayerfully consider a generous donation to provide tangible support. Make your check out to Solomons Lutheran Church with the memo space clearly marked "Hurricane Relief." If you are using cash, clearly mark the envelope. Thank you for your care and support of God's people.**

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Sunday School is in Session - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children's Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

Power Pack Meals: The Power Pack Meal program at New Franklin Elementary School is up and running. Currently 24 students are being sent home each Friday with food to last them through the weekend. The need for donations is great. Any individual size container of vegetables, fruit, breakfast items, meals (mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc.), juice pouches, Yahoo chocolate drink, 8 oz. bottle water are welcome. Please place your donation in the gray Social Ministry tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are welcome, make your check payable to Solomon's with Power Pack Meals in the memo line.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for 2023 are on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

DECEMBER 18, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Who is this Jesus born of God's love?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-16	A son named Immanuel
Tuesday	Romans 1:1-7	A salutation
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child is born
Thursday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Friday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Israel's restoration
Saturday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now 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 with child from the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 1:18 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, we praise you for reaching out to us and all the world with your eternal love through your Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us each day with the gift of food. Strengthen us with this meal to love others as you love us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of the world bless you with God's steadfast love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you think of a special friend or relative, how do you describe that person to others?
- When you think of Jesus, how do you describe him?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Away in a Manger



DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 1:18-25.

Since it speaks of Jesus' birth, this is almost an odd text for the last Sunday in Advent. It could be a Christmas Eve or Day writing, except that the focus is less on Jesus' birth and more on his identity: Who is this Jesus? He is divine (conceived by the Holy Spirit) yet also of the lineage of David (son of David, a title for the royal messiah). His role is seen in his name Jesus, meaning, "to save." His entrance into history is the fulfillment of scripture. Jesus' birth is prophetically linked to Isaiah 7 by the name Emmanuel, God with us. This essential point is brought back at the end of the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus says, "*I am with you always, to the end of the age*" (Matthew 28:20). It is worth reflecting on the coming of Jesus as the Son of God who comes to save and to fulfill the scriptures. This Jesus is not just a historical figure of the past but the very presence of God who is with us today. Jesus is present in the midst of our personal and community needs for salvation from sin, death, and the presence of real evil.

Discuss: What part of Jesus' identity do you focus on or relate to during the Advent season?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to sense the awe of Jesus' birth through whom you have come to be with us as our Savior and promise to be with us always. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others experience God's love and mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. For the fourth and last week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, the third candle of joy, and the fourth candle of love on the Advent wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another.

Say: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**