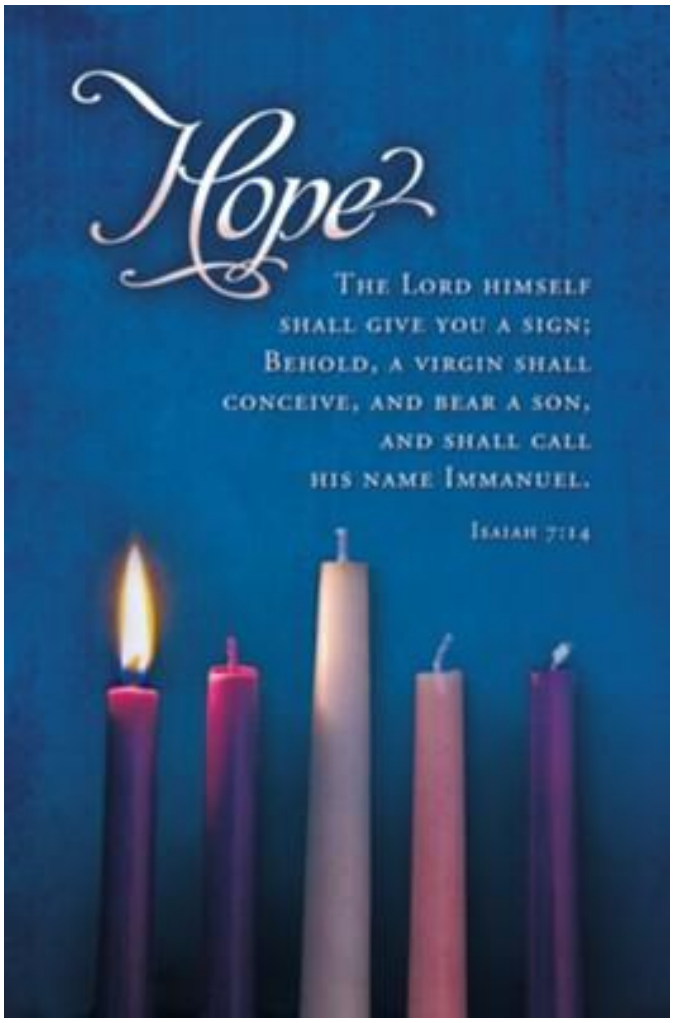
Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities and connecting others to Christ.

Advent I
Year B Lectionary
November 29, 2026
9 a.m. Service Bulletin

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!

WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means "God with us." Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors. Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women's Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children's Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share "God with us" with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God's Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Stir up your power and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✢ **WELCOME** Courtney Christensen, Council Member of the Day

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

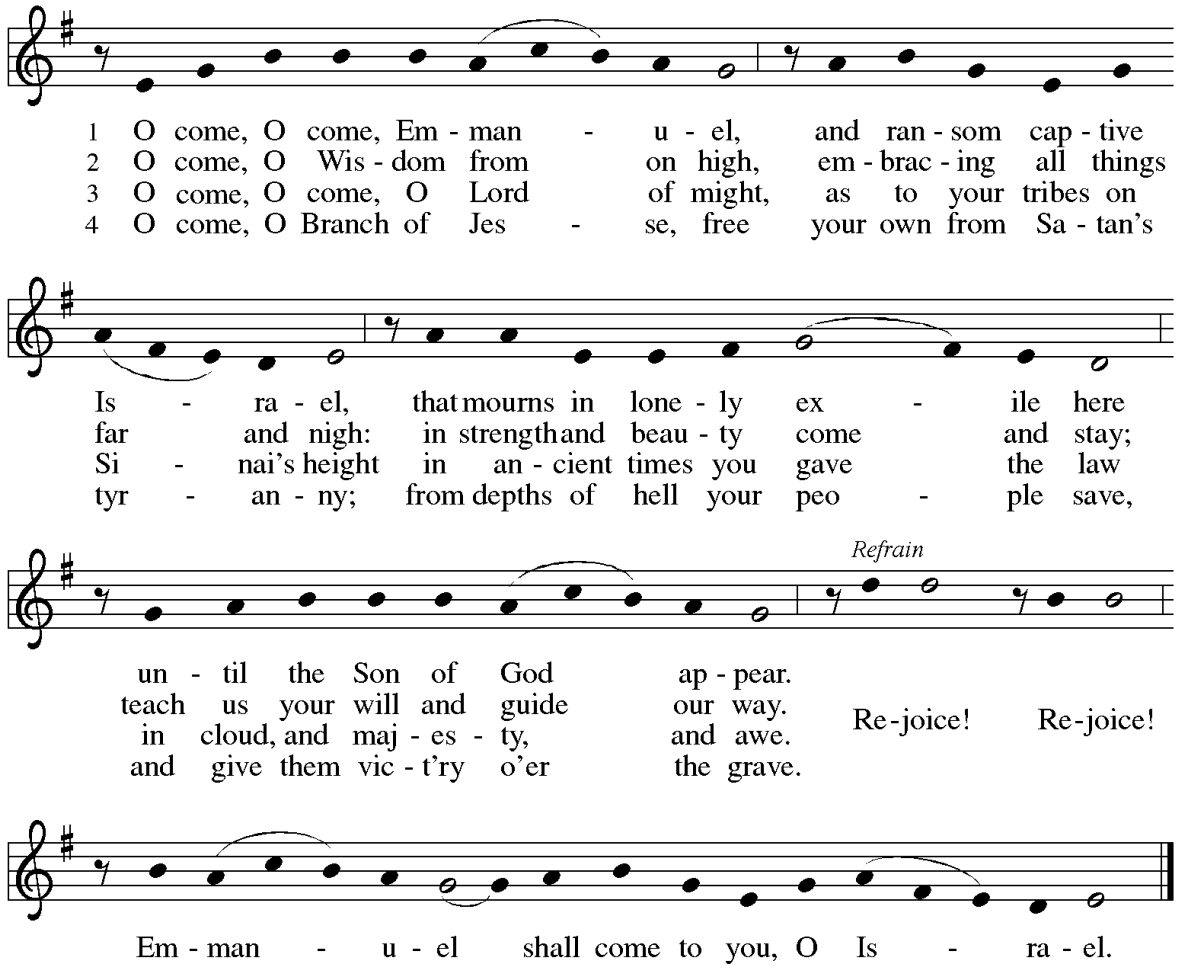
✢ **PRELUDE** *Savior of the Nations, Come*, BuxWV 211 Dieterich Buxtehude

Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

✢ Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW # 257

Please stand, as you are able.



✢ Apostolic Greeting

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL **And also with you.**

✢ Prayer of the Day

Pastor Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

ALL **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

✢ Lighting of the Advent Candle *HOPE*

Please be seated.

Lector The prophet Isaiah declares, "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him" Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.

ALL **When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven.**

Lector We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises, that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God already at work among us to save and restore all creation.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✢ LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9

Summary

Lector *This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account–to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past. Now, the lesson from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament.*

Lector [1] O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence [2] as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! [3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. [4] From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. [5] You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. [6] We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. [7] There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. [8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

ALL **Thanks be to God.**

☩ PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Lector [1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

ALL [2] **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Lector [3] Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

ALL [4] **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

Lector [5] You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

ALL [6] **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Lector [7] Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

ALL [17] **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

Lector [18] And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

ALL [19] **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**Today's Epistle reading is printed in the insert.*

☩ Gospel Acclamation and Reading Mark 13:24-37

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

ALL **and grant us your salvation.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the 13th chapter.

ALL **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor Jesus said: [24] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

[28] "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

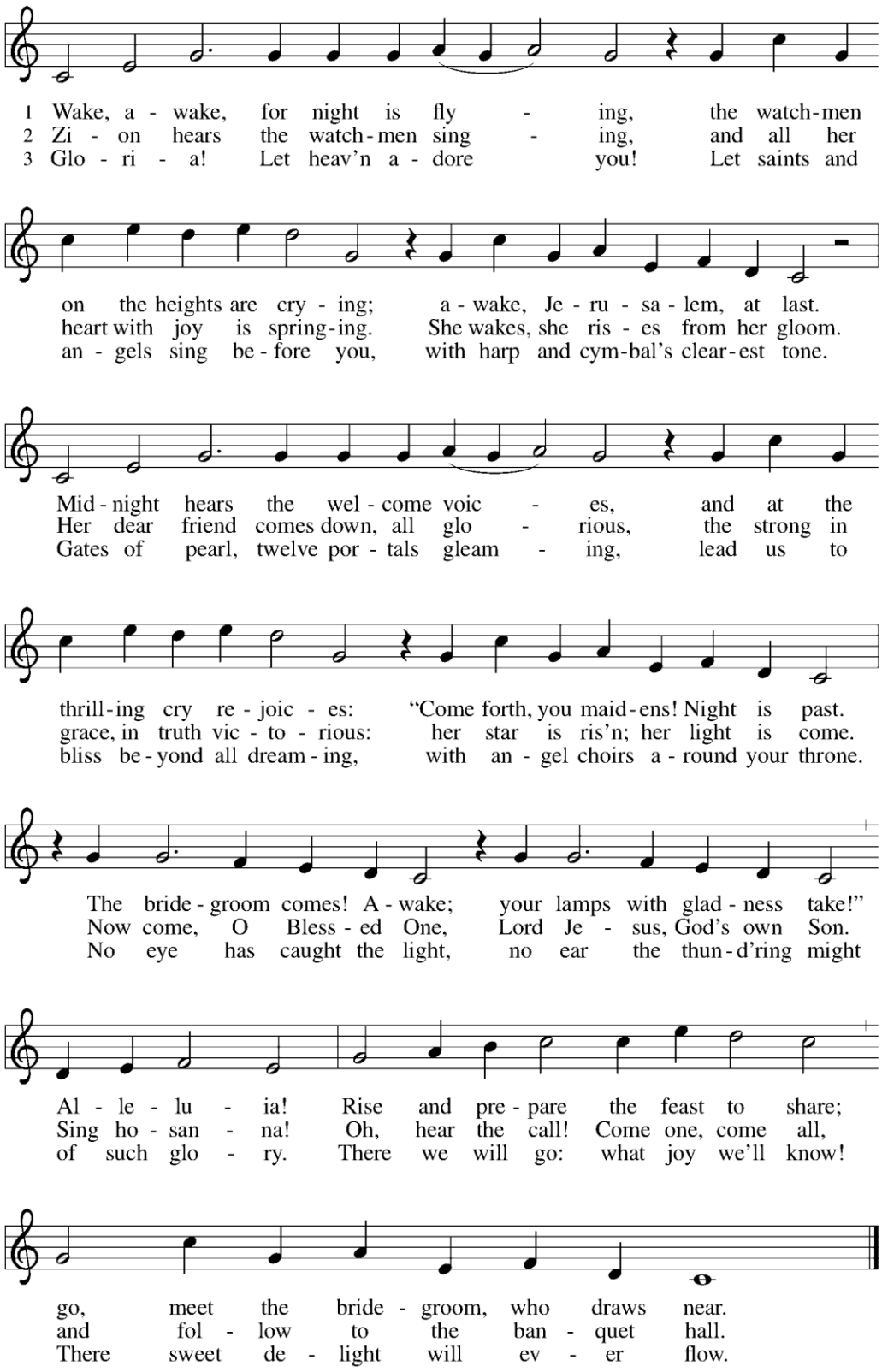
ALL **Praise to you, O Christ.**

☩ Sermon The Rev. Chris Christopher

Please be seated.

✢ HYMN OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* ELW # 436

Please stand, as you are able.



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

✢ Apostles' Creed

AM = Assisting Minister

AM Together, let us profess our faith.

ALL **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

Please be seated or kneel.

AM In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

Silence for preparation

AM Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Come and restore the Earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,

AM **receive our prayer.**

AM Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, physical, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Be with all in our community and the world who are oppressed. God, in your mercy,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

ALL **AMEN.**

☩ Confession

Confession is a time to clear our conscience, acknowledge shortcomings, and receive God's assurance of forgiveness before hearing the Word and sharing Holy Communion.

Pastor Comforting God,

ALL **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. AMEN.**

✢ Absolution

Declaration of forgiveness

Pastor "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ✢ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!

ALL **AMEN.**

✢ Peace

Please stand, as you are able and pace the peace to those only in your immediate area.

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshiping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,

ALL **the peace of the Lord be with you.**

✢ Announcements

Please be seated.

- **Advent Mid - Week Dinner and Services** - start this Wednesday, December 2 5:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Center.
- **Warm Winter Wear** - We are collecting gently used winter items for the annual "Warm Winter Wear" that will be shared with the ILC Soup Kitchen clients at the end of December. Although usually in January, the event is moving to December to help people earlier in the upcoming winter. Donations can be left in the box provided in the Welcome Center.
- **Christmas Card Bags** - Bags are provided where Christmas Cards can be placed for some members who are unable to attend regularly. The table is in the Welcome Center. Please see Ann Coker for the name list. Remember the mail cubbies can be used for regular attending members.
- **Advent Lessons and Carols** - NEXT Sunday, December 6 - 4:30 p.m. (ILC Nave) A full reception will follow the service at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. We need people to volunteer to bring food. If you can help with food, please e-mail Sue Kaufman at jakesnanna@aol.com.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

✢ OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Adam Lay Ybounden Robert Lehman

The Chancel Choir

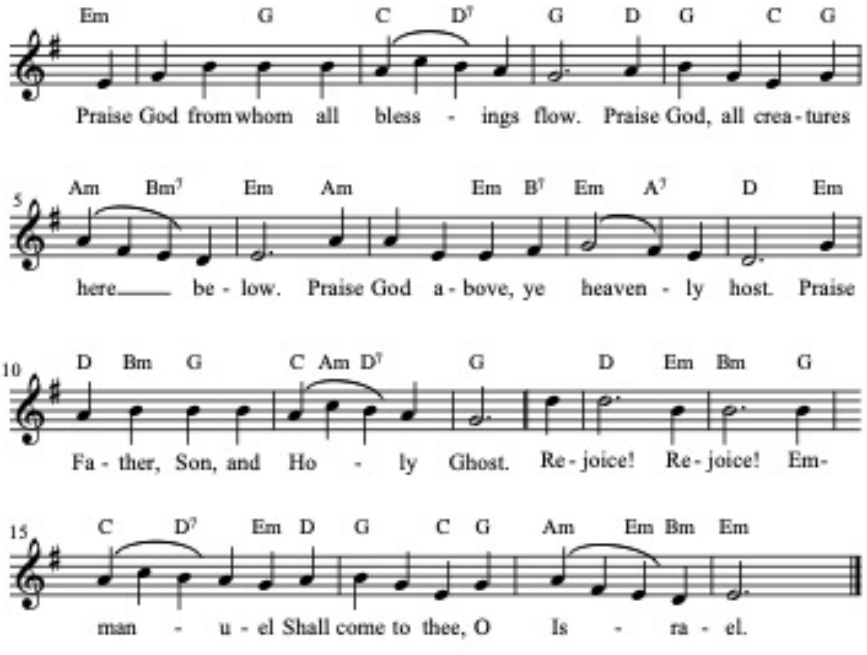
Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond, Four thousand winter thought he not too long;
And all was for an apple, and apple that he took, As clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, Ne had never Our Lady ybeen heavene Queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was: Therfore we moun singen: Deo Gratias.

✢ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Please stand, as you are able.

VENI EMMANUEL



Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website http://www.umcworship.org. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

☩ Offertory Prayer

Pastor Holy Creator,

ALL **we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

☩ Great Thanksgiving

Pastor The Lord be with you.

ALL **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

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

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

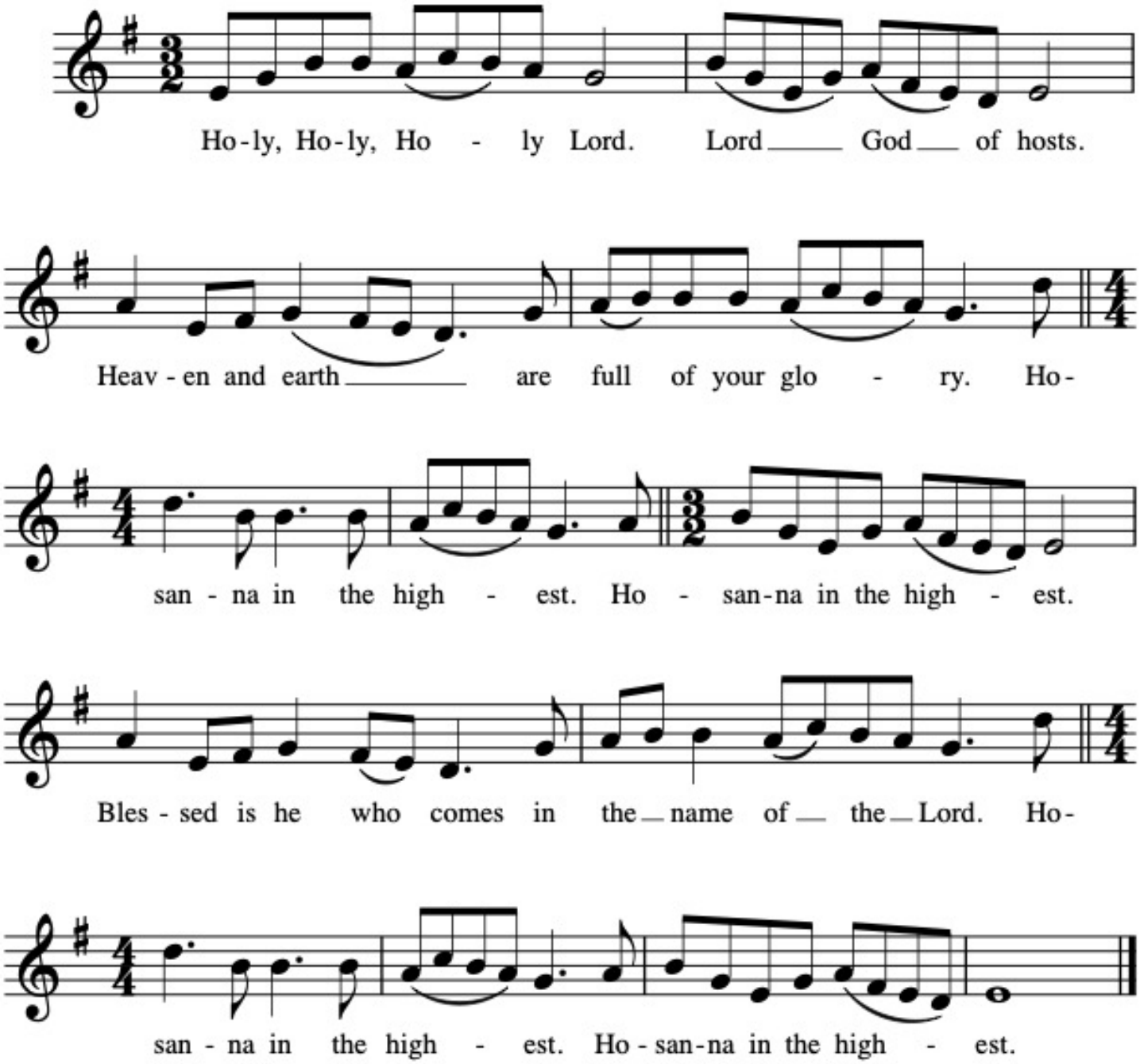
ALL **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☩ Proper Preface

Pastor It is truly good, right and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Creator, everlasting God. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

☩ SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Kevin Weed



✢ Words of Institution

Pastor In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ 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

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

ALL **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.**

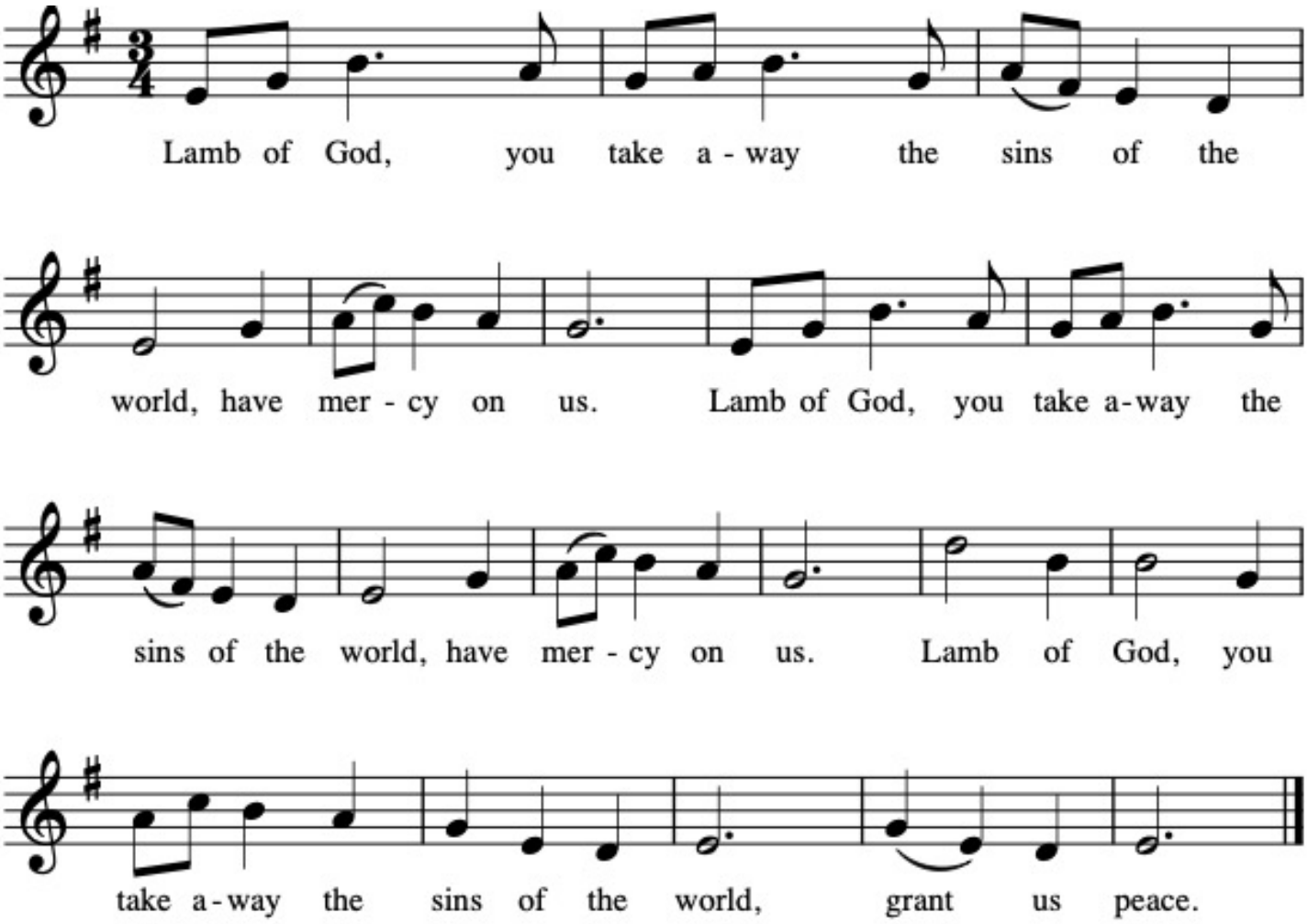
✢ Invitation to Communion

Please be seated.

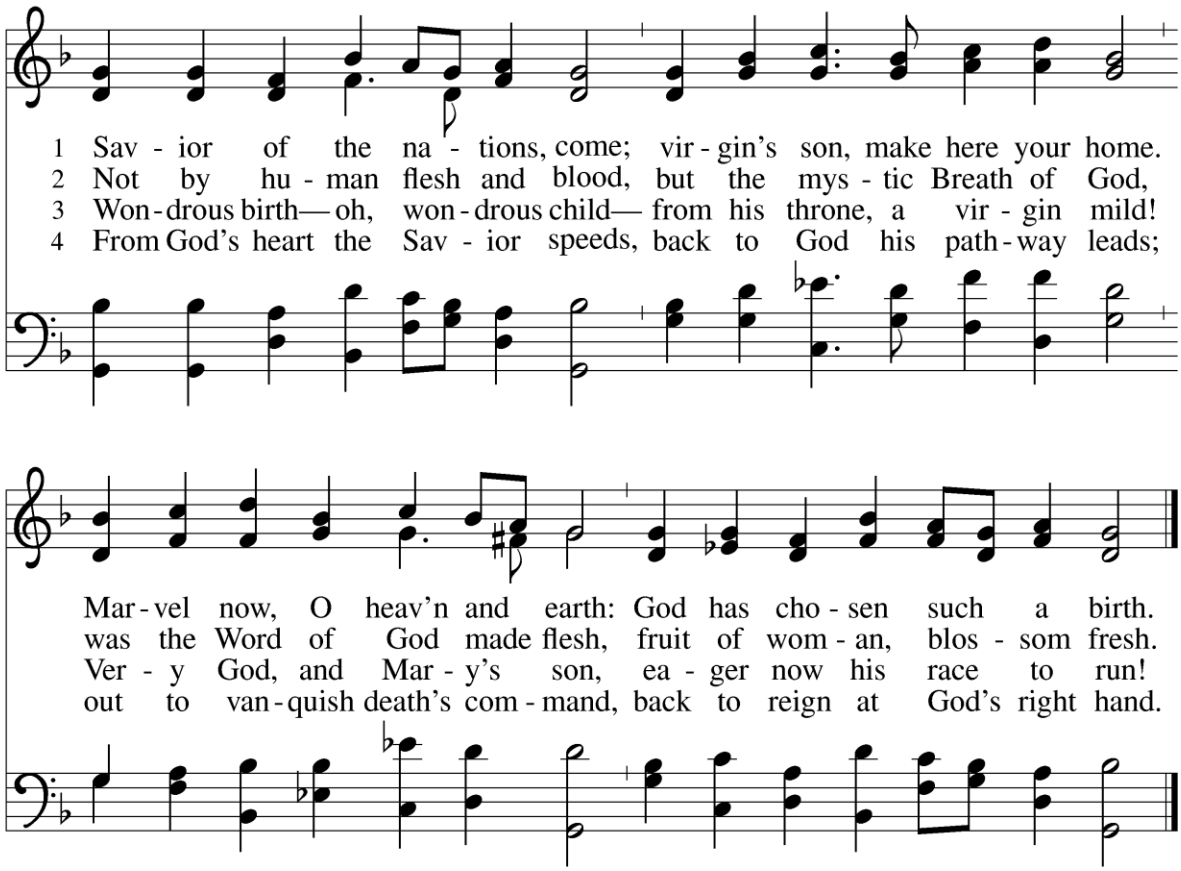
ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The silver cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.

☩ AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God Kevin Weed



✢ COMMUNION MUSIC *Savior of the Nations, Come* ELW # 263



5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

✢ BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace!

ALL **AMEN!**

✢ Post - Communion Prayer

Pastor Providing God,
ALL **you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms.**
We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN.

✢ Benediction

Pastor God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ✢ bless you now and forever.
ALL **AMEN.**

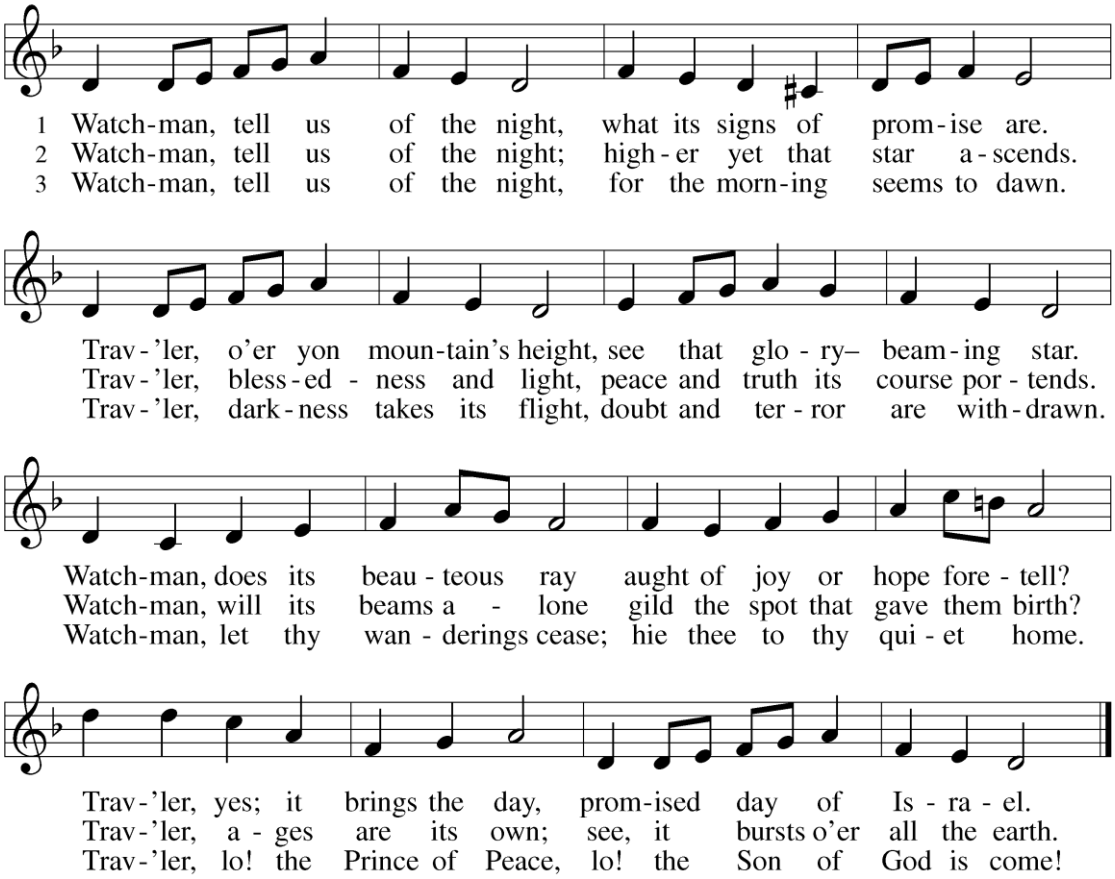
✢ Dismissal

Pastor Go in peace.
ALL **Thanks be to God.**

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✢ Closing Hymn *Watchmen Tell Us of the Night*



Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872
Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

✢ Postlude *Hope of the World* Will Cleveland

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	Courtney Christensen
Pastor	Chris Christopher
Lector / Assisting Minister	Kim Leemhuis
Organist and Pianist	Dr. Will Cleveland
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufman, Kim Leemhuis, and Lynne Presley
Sound and Video Technician(s)	George Beveridge and Jim Cochran
Altar Guild	Zeolean Kinard
Ushers	Jean Boozer and Wayne Boozer
Counters	Cile Davis and John Davis
Officer on Duty	Will Stroop

Altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Leisa and Richard Hotchkiss.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com
office@ilcgreenwood.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*** Closed on Mondays**

CHURCH STAFF

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John Kinard, Congregation President
jlkinard29@yahoo.com

Courtney Christensen, Congregation Vice-President
courtneychristensen@icloud.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music
will@ilcgreenwood.com

Juan Luna, Sexton
Samuel Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING AS LEADERS IN THE GREATER CHURCH

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Wade Roof, Bishop, South Carolina Synod