

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020**

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes
Texas 78570
956.565.1518
Immanuelmercedes
@gmail.com**

**[https://www.facebook.com/
LutheranMercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMercedes/)**

**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

**Website:
lutheranmercedes.
com**

***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.
Worship Service**

**10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**



**“There was a man sent
from God, whose
name was John. This
man came for a witness,
to bear witness of the
Light, that all through
him might believe.
(John 1:7)**

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the world, abide with me that I may rejoice in Your gracious presence, pray to You in every need, and give thanks for all Your blessing; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - We hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the Lord, whose earthly birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming again on the Last Day is the promise of resurrection and eternal life for all who believe. Between our coming to faith and His coming again, we are called to lives of faith that continue to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in every circumstance. We can do that because we have come to the light of our salvation and hope of

eternal life. Now certainly it's easier to rejoice, pray, and give thanks when things are going well. It's another thing when we suffer illness or persecution, the reverses, challenges, and disappointments of life. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ seeks to enable us to do just that—to rejoice always, to pray always, and to give thanks to God always in all circumstances. This is holy living, constantly keeping the eyes of faith on the sure and certain Word and promises of God for His people, the God who blesses, keeps, comforts, and strengthens us every day. We rejoice with the psalmist, saying, “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

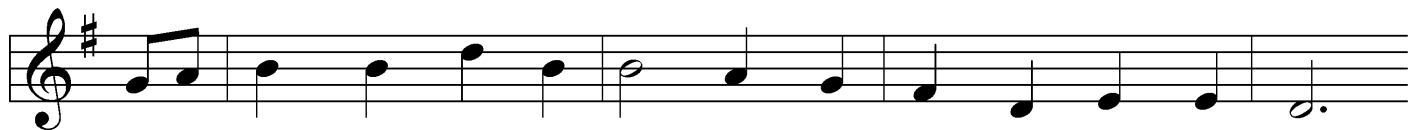




1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing night.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Public domain

▲ INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

▲ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)

C Amen.

▲ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C and illumine Your Church.

[Light three candles on the Advent wreath during the singing of the following stanzas.]

▲ HYMN *We Light the Advent Candle* **Sts. 1-3**

1 We light the Advent candle

[CONTINUED NEXT PAGE]

And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

2 We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

3 We light the Advent candle
And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message—
A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending;
The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

Text: Lisa M. Clark. Copyright © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

▲ **INTROIT** *Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

P Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

C **I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C **Yes, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.**

P Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.

Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

▲ KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

▲ SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

(The year of the Lord's favor)

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,

and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,
3 To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for
ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the
spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteous-
ness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be
glorified.” 4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise
up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined
cities, the desolations of many generations. 8 “For I, the Lord,
love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their
work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting
covenant. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the
Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see
them shall acknowledge them, that they are the
posterity whom the Lord has blessed.” 10 I will greatly rejoice
in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has
clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me
with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom
decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride
adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth
its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to
spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5*

P Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

**C When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we
were like those who dream.**

P Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue
with singing. Then they said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

C The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

P Bring back our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the South.

C Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

P He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *(Children remain seated)*

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*
(Rejoice always)

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

▲ **HOLY GOSPEL** *John 1:6–8, 19–28*

(The testimony of John the Baptist)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to You , O Lord.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him

might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

▲ APOSTLES CREED

All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re - pen-tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



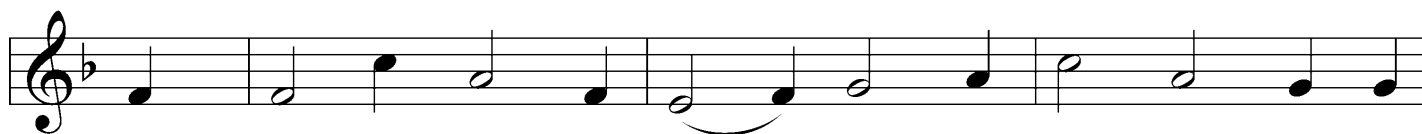
And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

© 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012733. Public domain

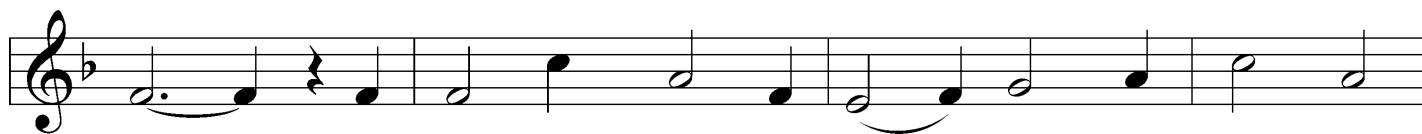
SERMON *“John the Baptist’s Confession and Witness to
 THE Light, and Yours!!”* (John 1:7)

OFFERING *(Please place your offering in the offering plate as you leave.)*





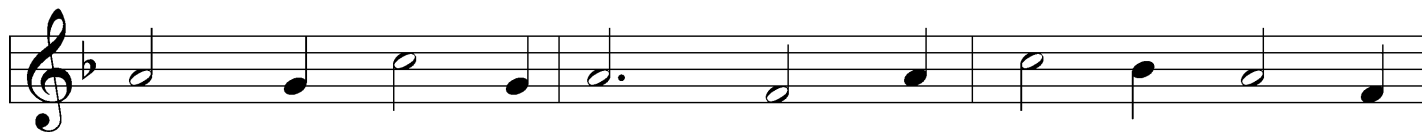
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Public domain

▲ **SHARING OF THE PEACE** *"Peace be with you" (John 20:21)*
[using ASL (American Sign Language)]

RECEPTION of New Members, *Tim & Tammy Sorenson*

BAPTISM of *Asher Lee Grimes*

HYMN

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

LSB 740

▲ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [name], our Synod President, [name], our District President, for all pastors and servants of Christ, that they proclaim with faithfulness and clarity the true light of the Gospel in all they do, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who are sick, [especially . . .], that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

▲ LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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.

▲ BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

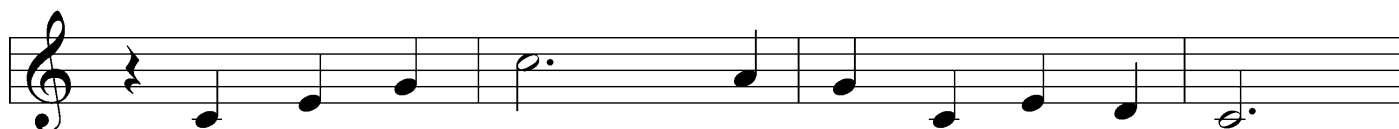
C Thanks be to God.

▲ BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors* **LSB 339**



1 Lift up your heads, you ev - er - last - ing doors,
2 Who is this King of great and glo - rious fame?
3 Who may as - cend Mount Zi - on's ho - ly hill
4 "Wor - thy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain



And weep no more! O Zi - on's daugh - ter, sing,
 What is His name? Lord God of Sab - a - oth,
 To do God's will? The One whose un - stained hands
 Now lives to reign. He rules our earth - ly ways



To greet your com - ing King; Now wave the vic - tor's
 Of whom the proph - ets wrote, Whose cho - sen, hum - ble
 Can meet the Law's de - mands, Whose pu - ri - ty with -
 As Lord of An - cient Days— O join the end - less



palm And sing the an - cient psalm: “Lift up your
 steed De - clares Him king in - deed! Ho - san - na,
 in Re - veals One free from sin. Come, praise this
 song Sung by the ran - somed throng: “Wor - thy is



heads, you ev - er - last - ing gates!” Your King a - waits!
 Lord! Mes - si - ah, come and save From sin and grave.
 King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him a - lone!
 Christ!” The Lamb be praised a - gain! A - men! A - men!

© 2003 Stephen P. Starke © 1970 The Hymn Society; admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012733. admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012733.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Immanuel will be giving turkeys to families in need on December 23rd. If you would like to help volunteer in this project or receive a turkey, please talk to Pastor Weber or Mellie Peach.

If you would like to support this project with a donation, please write a check to:

Immanuel Lutheran and write "Christmas Turkey" in the memo. Thank you and blessed Christmas! Sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team



*Portals of Prayer
for January to March 2021 are available in
the Narthrex or office.*

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
at 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Weber leading the class!*

A warm welcome to our Winter Texans as they arrive weekly to the RGV.
Stay safe!

Memory Verse Challenge

The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week.

This week's memory verse: *Galatians 4:4-5*

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

DECEMBER



Happy Birthday



Members

2 Daniel Cantu
9 Maribel Perez
10 Ashley Cantu

Winter Texans

2 Jeanne Heilman
9 Verney Jorgenson
31 Bert Messer

Happy Anniversary

Members

None

Winter Texans

4 Joseph & Linda Bleess
10 Rodney & Jeri Behrens
21 Glenn & Mary Jo Twenhafel
25 Harvey & Janna Sadlovsky
27 Bob & Charlene Burnison



Voters' Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

7:30 p.m.

Election of Officers & Budget

12/2/2020	
Mid-Week 1 Advent Worship 21	
Plate:	\$ 80.00
Envelopes:	\$ 195.00
Total:	\$ 275.00



	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	December Sunday Servants:	
Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lorri Marchant	
Music:	Bonny Winston	
This Week	Third Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Ken & Bob Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salvation” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

12/6/2020		
Sunday Worship	33	
Plate:		\$ 50.00
Envelopes:		\$ 1,110.00
Donation:		
Memorial:		\$ 40.00
“Pick Pickering”		
Total:		\$ 1,200.00
Bible Class:	21	\$ 20.00

Fourth Sunday in Advent ***Readings:***

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalms 89:1-5 (19-29)
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38