



## **WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH**

**Messy Church Sunday, June 17, 2018**

This morning we are having Messy Church. You can find more information about the concept of Messy Church in the bulletin. Enjoy exploring the scripture through activities and worship!

**Matthew 13: 31-32** 'The kingdom of God is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches'

**Explore the scripture through the following activities for approximately 30 minutes:**

Help build a handprint tree

Decorate birds for the tree

Plant some seeds

Pray at the prayer table

Explore how many other apples can be grown from just one apple

Make a play doh garden

Join in a discussion

**Community Activity**

**Song: The Green Trees Grow All Around**

*(to the tune of "The Green Grass Grows All Around")*

**The Life & Work of our Community of Faith**

**Lighting of the Christ and Affirming Candles**

**Hymn: *Like a Rock***

**MV 92**

**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.**

**Like the starry night sky God is over our head.**

**Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before. Like the  
river runs to ocean, our home is in God  
evermore.**

## **Hearing Scripture in Story: Mark 4:26-34**

**Story: “City Green” by ByAnne DiSalvo-Ryan**

*The Garden Song* by David Mallett

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: *Dance with the Spirit*  
MV 156**

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
Walk with the Spirit through-out the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

## **Benediction and Blessing**

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### **What is Messy Church?**

*Messy Church is missional and designed to reach families who are not ‘churched’ as well as those for whom a Sunday morning does not work.*

Most Messy Churches gather in a church or hall once a month, most often on a weekday, with a Biblical story or concept as the theme.

*Everyone is together throughout the evening – kids don't go off to do something different – for all aspects of Messy Church. And the Messy Church community grows!*

## **Values**

**Christ-centred:** Messy Church is a church, (not a craft club) that helps people encounter the story of Christianity and the power of community and God's love.

**All-ages:** It is for adults and children to enjoy together – every element should be relevant and accessible to all ages.

**Creativity:** It uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.

**Hospitality:** It reflects a God of unconditional love and is a church for people outside church, providing an oasis of welcome and a safe space in which to thrive. Messy Church is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together – whether it's a plate of sandwiches to share, spaghetti dinner or other prepared meal.

**Celebration:** It reflects a God of joy who wants his people to have life in all its fullness.

## **Principles**

*Messy Church is not a stepping-stone into existing congregations, but is a congregation in its own right.*

*It is ecumenical and seeks to work with all Canadian Christian churches.*

## **The story so far**

How it began

The first Messy Church began in 2004 when a group at St Wilfrid's in Cowplain near Portsmouth, England were frustrated because, as a church, they were hardly reaching any children with God's story.

They felt they had lovely buildings and facilities but weren't using them enough. They had creative people in the church, and the area needed as much community-building as possible, being a rather featureless suburb.

There was a lot of sympathy towards church in general but the church wasn't offering anything that really gripped the imagination of local families.

They decided very early on to try to do something for all ages together, partly out of a belief that we grow best as a church when we walk the journey with as many different people as possible, and partly from a desire to help families to grow together in their walk of faith, and not see Christianity as something you grow out of when you're 11.

For more info or to visit the resources used here:

<https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/messy-church-canada/what-messy-church/about-messy-church>

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/what-messy-church-and-isnt>

### **Messy Church at Emmanuel**

For the past two years, Emmanuel has been holding Messy Church about once a month. Today's worship is an opportunity for you to experience this important ministry. We appreciate your continued support.