



## **WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18, 2018**

As we meet together, we begin by remembering the Algonquin People on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through many generations. We bear witness to the ongoing suffering caused by historical injustices and commit to seeking right relations today.

### **The Gathering of God's People**

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

**Emmanubells:** *Will You Come And Follow Me,*  
*Traditional Scottish*  
arr. Susan T Nelson

#### **Lighting of the Christ and Affirming Candles**

##### **Welcome**

Welcome to this sacred place of belonging where we embrace the sacredness of life and recognize the dignity of each person, spirit-filled with the image of God, the Mystery in whom we live and move and have our being.

**Welcome to all who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, have doubts. Welcome to visitors and to new and old friends.**

Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, youth, couples and single people.

**Welcome to people of all colours, cultures, abilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, to old and young, to believers and questioners – and welcome to questioning believers.**

This day, we are all invited to live into God's love, peace and justice.

**Emmanubells:** *Standin' in the Need of Prayer,*

*Traditional*  
arr. Valerie Stephenson,  
Lisanne Hendelmann, clarinet

## **Call to Worship**

God has called us to this place.

**To worship and rejoice.**

God has called us to this place.

**To learn and know.**

God has called us to this place.

**To be formed and grow.**

Let us worship God;

**With all our hearts, minds, and souls we come to worship our God. †**

## **Prayer of Approach**

O Holy One,

we had answered your call on several occasions in the past, even if we were not always sure what to expect. We are ready to answer your call today, even if we do not always follow your ways. We desire to answer your call in the future, even if it will mean leaving our zones of comfort and walking on uncharted territories.

**Give us the courage to go where you call us and inspire us to be a source of hope in times of transformation. We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn: *O Love That Wilt Not Let me Go*  
VU 658**

**O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.**

### **A Time for All God's Children**

**Hymn: *Jesus Came Bringing Us Life*  
MV 33**

**Jesus came bringing us life (x 3)  
Hallelujah forever more!**

### **Reading from the Bible**

#### **Prayer of Illumination**

**First Reading:** The Gospel according to John 12: 20-33

*A few days before the Festival of Passover, Jesus speaks of his death and resurrection with his disciples.*

**Psalm 51 (refrain 1)  
VU 776**

**Refrain: God, I call to you for help; in your mercy hear my prayer.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great kindness,  
**in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.**  
Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.  
**For I acknowledge my faults,  
and my sin is always before me.**

**Refrain: God, I call to you for help; in your mercy hear my prayer.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned,  
and done evil in your sight,  
**so that you are justified in your sentence,  
and blameless in your judgement.**  
Guilty I have been from my birth,  
a sinner from the time of my conception.  
**But you desire truth in our inward being,  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**  
Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean,  
**wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.**  
Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,  
**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**  
Turn away your face from my sins,  
**and blot out all my iniquities.**

**Refrain: God, I call to you for help; in your mercy hear my prayer.**

Put a new heart in me, O God,  
**and give me again a constant spirit.**  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
**do not take your holy spirit from me.**  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.  
**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.**  
O God, open my lips,  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Refrain: God, I call to you for help; in your mercy hear my prayer.**

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it;  
**you take no delight in burnt offerings.**  
The sacrifice you accept, O God, is a broken spirit;  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.**

**Refrain: God, I call to you for help; in your mercy hear my prayer.**

**Second Reading:** The Book of Jeremiah 31: 31-34

*In a time of political and religious convulsions, Jeremiah claims that despite past infidelity, God will act for the people in a new way.*

**Anthem: The Old Rugged Cross**

*arr. Mark Hayes*

**Sermon**

**Hymn: Spirit Open My Heart**

**MV 79**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.**

**Responding with Prayer & Thanksgiving**

**Gathering of our Offerings**

**Presentation Hymn: *God of All Good***  
**VU 539**

**God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,  
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;  
tokens of love and pledges brought anew  
that our whole life is offered to your will.**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer**  
**VU 921**

**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: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***  
**VU 288**

**Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above**

**join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

## **Benediction**

**Choral Closing: *Threefold Amen***

## **Postlude**

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## **Prayer**

A clipboard for prayer concerns will be circulated, if you wish, add a line, printing clearly, then pass it on. It is also available in the narthex before each service.

A Prayer Box is available for individuals to write requests for personal prayers. It is located on the Prayer Table at the front of the sanctuary.

Prayer requests are treated with respect and confidentiality.