



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024

May 5th is Red Dress Day; a day to honour and remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People from across Canada. It is a time to reflect on our commitment to seek right relations. On this day, red dresses are hung from trees to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors.



Photo by Jon Jones

Acknowledging the Territory

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked this land, weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land. We acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people. May we grow into living with respect on this land, moving into reconciliation through peace and friendship with all who live, work and worship on it.

The Gathering

Gathering Music:

Siyahamba
Zulu Folk Song

arr. Hal Hopson
St. Andrew's Ringers,
Directed by Dominique Moreau

The Life & Work of our Community of Faith

Lighting of the Christ and Affirming Candles

We light the Christ candle to symbolize the presence of Christ's Spirit, alive within us, this day and every day.

We light the Affirm candle to proclaim to the members of the LGBTQ2SIA+ communities and their allies that they are truly welcomed and accepted in this place.

Responsive Welcome

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, siblings, 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. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn:

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Call to Worship

Listen to the world sing God's praises!

The sound of children laughing, the feel of a gentle breeze, the taste of a home-cooked meal, the fresh smell of morning.

God's steadfast love is everywhere around us.

Listen to the world sing God's praises!

In friendship restored, in reconciled relations, in love refreshed.

God's steadfast love is everywhere around us.

May God's love be present to us in this time together, that God's presence might be known through us in all the earth.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world. Amen.

Music: *Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace*

Kevin McChesney
Emmanubells and St. Andrew's Ringers,
Directed by Ann Frederking
Trumpet, Laurel Ralston

(Children come forward while the song is played)

Hymn: Circle Song

Come and join the circle, come and take my hand.
Come and join the circle, come and be my friend.
Gather round and see, what the world can be.
Come and join the circle, come and share God's word with me.

Children's Message: Safe and Welcoming Love

Val

You Hold Me Up

by Monique Gray Smith

Hymn:

I Am Walking a Path of Peace

MV 221

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture

John 15:9-17

Jesus is meeting with and teaching his disciples about the commandment to love as well as his love and God's love. Loving one another is the greatest commandment and staying close to God and obeying the commandments makes them Christ's friends, well connected, like being a part of the true vine of Jesus.

Anthem

Serenity

“I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

*Beethoven, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Emmanubells and St. Andrew's Ringers,
Directed by Dominique Moreau
Trumpet, Laurel Ralston*

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Portions of this service of worship have been adapted from:

Kimberly Bracken Long, “Sixth Sunday of Easter,” *Feasting on the Word*,
Liturgies for Year B, volume 1, Advent through Pentecost Worship Companion,
Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014, 170-173.

“Easter 6,” *Seasons of the Spirit: Seasons FUSION*, Lent-Easter 2012, p.p. 170-173.

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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:00PM

Our Lay Reader today is Evelyn Perkins. Thank you for your part in our worship service this morning. If you would like to be a lay reader in the future, email Janet Campbell at jicampbell@hotmail.com.

Thank you to the production team, ushers, and coffee hosts for bringing us today's worship service and coffee and conversation time.

Welcome to Emmanuel! We invite newcomers and visitors to sign our **Guest Book** and join us in a time of fellowship in the CE Hall following worship.

We offer a warm and gracious welcome to the Emmanubells and St. Andrew's Ringers. Both St. Andrew's Ringers and the Emmanubells will participate in a massed handbell concert this evening at Rideau Park United Church. It's at 7:00 pm. Admission is free with a free-will offering. We hope to see you there this evening.

Laurel Ralston joined us this morning with her trumpet, Thank you!

Join our **Zoom Coffee Time** this Tuesday when we will kick off an important conversation! We'll be discussing how our community can support each other when someone faces being taken advantage of or scammed.

Take part in Emmanuel's **Day Pilgrimage "No One Stands Alone"** on **Wed. May 8th 9:45-2:00** (the rain date is May 15th) at **Vincent Massey Park**. To Register, or for more information, add your name to the sign up sheet opposite the CE hall, or contact either Irene (ijsb47@gmail.com) or Jill (halifaxmaclean@gmail.com)

Today is **Red Dress Day**, when we reflect and honour the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+)**. Every life matters! May they NEVER be forgotten.

Emmanuel will be a pickup spot for **Still Growing Farm's** Community Supported Agriculture. If you are interested in receiving 16 weekly deliveries of locally grown seasonal organic produce, **place your order by May 31st**. More info can be found at www.stillgrowingfarm.ca

On May 12th, **WEAR WHITE FOR PEACE** to show our support for meaningful peace efforts in Palestine/Israel. Wear white and share in the nationwide multi-church pilgrimages and visible expressions of our **PRAYERS FOR PEACE** - by wearing white on May 12 & **WALKING WITH OUR MODERATOR ON MAY 22**. As we unite to pray for peace, we'll have pictures taken and shared with the national office of the UCC and Kairos. We pray for a complete ceasefire, release of the hostages, and strong steps to create a lasting peace. We encourage you to wear white next week and again on May 22, and to join the Moderator's walk to the Prime Minister and Parliament.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 5 Worship Coffee and Conversation JAM Bell's Concert	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 pm – 1:30 pm 7:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall/Kitchen Sanctuary Rideau Park
Monday, May 6 Christie Lake Kids Christian Meditation	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm 7:00 pm	C.E. Hall/Kitchen Zoom
Tuesday, May 7 Tai Chi Quilting Coffee Time Coffee	9:30 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am - 3:00 pm 10:00 am - 11:00 am 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	C.E. Hall Rm 7, 9/10 Zoom Three Sisters
Wednesday, May 8 Women's Group Active Artists P & G Meeting Finance Meeting Voices Rock Medicine	11:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Lounge C.E. Hall Zoom Zoom Sanctuary
Thursday, May 9 Tai Chi Discussion Group Emmanubells Choir Al-Anon	9:30 am – 11:30 pm 10:00 am - 11:30 am 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Room 9/10 Sanctuary C.E. Hall
Friday, May 10 Take Time to be Wholely	10:30 am - 11:30 am	C.E. Hall
Saturday, May 11 Men's Club Breakfast	8:15 am	Perkin's