



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Second Sunday After Christmas
January 5, 2025

The Gathering

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.

Opening Hymn:

And On This Path

MV 8

The Life & Work of our Community of Faith

Centennial Minute

Lighting of the Christ and Affirming Candle

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 2SLGBTQIA+ 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:

For the Beauty of the Earth

VU 226

Call to Worship:

True light is entering our world through Jesus Christ.

Sing for joy and praise God, all people.

God's Word makes the winds blow and water flow.

Jesus Christ is God's Word to us and for us.

Receive the Word and believe the good news.

Know you are children of God, born of the Spirit.

The Word became flesh to dwell with humanity.

Grace and forgiveness are lavished upon us.

Be radiant in appreciation of God's goodness.

Hear the Word of God and declare it to others.

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

Spiritual blessings are abundantly available to us.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

From near and far, we come to worship. Amid our joys and sorrows, we come to praise. In our strength and in our weakness, we gather for refreshment and renewal. You have called us together like a shepherd keeps a flock. As a gardener waters growing plants, you care for us and provide for our growth. Praise be to you, O God, for your protecting love and freeing grace. Shine upon us here that we may know your truth and receive it into our lives. Amen.

(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:

Amelia

Hymn:

I am the Light of the World

VU 87

Verses 1, 4

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture:

John 1:1-18

Musical Offering:

The Birthday of a King

By William Neidlinger

Soloist: Julie Henderson

Accompanist: Abi Sanchez

Meditation:

Real People Faith

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn:

Dream a Dream

MV 158

Offering Invitation:

In these moments, we are challenged, not just to reach for a contribution, but to reorder our lives. We look beyond pledges to productivity. Will we be enlightened by the gifts we dedicate here? Who will receive the Word because we are faithful? How will the world be changed by our investment in this community of faith?

Offertory Prayer:

Your goodness, O God, has satisfied us with abundance beyond our deserving. The return on your investment in us is not adequate to express our thanks. Use our lives as channels of your grace. May our individual efforts and the combined outreach we can accomplish together turn mourning into joy and hopelessness into purposeful living. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* VU 422

Commissioning:

Go out to fulfill your destiny as children of God.

Let your hope be in Christ and live as disciples.

We will live in the true light of Jesus Christ.

We are listening for God's will for our lives.

Bear witness to the light, that all might believe.

Share the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, we have inherited spiritual blessings.

We seek to pass them on to siblings.

You are marked by the Holy Spirit.

God's promises are being fulfilled in and through you.

Thanks be to God for goodness and mercy.

Praise God for making us instruments of peace.

Blessing

Threefold Amen

Postlude:

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Portions of this service of worship have been adapted from:

Lavon Bayler, "Second Sunday after Christmas – A,B,C," *In: Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C*, Cleveland: United Church Press, 1994, p.p. 26-27.

No Scents Makes Good Sense

Emmanuel provides a scent-free environment. Please avoid wearing or using scented products as some individuals have environmental sensitivities.

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: **Rev. Grant Stuckless**
Pastoral Care Provider: **Ron MacDonald**
Interim Choir Director: **Ann McNamee**
Service Pianist: **Abigail Sánchez Rojas**
Office Administrator: **Emma Dowd**
Telephone: **(613) 733-0437**
691 Smyth Road, Ottawa, ON
Email: **office@emmanuelunited.ca**
Website: **www.emmanuelunited.ca**
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:30PM

Our Lay Reader today is Robert Sims. Thank you for your part in our worship service this morning.

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

Welcome to Emmanuel! If you are a newcomer or visitor, we invite you to sign our **Guest Book** and join us in a time of fellowship in the CE Hall following worship.

There is no service at Emmanuel next week. **The annual Cluster service will be held at 10:30 am, on January 12th at Glebe St. James United Church, 650 Lyon Street.**

The Finance Team is looking to fill the position of Church Treasurer. If you, or anyone you know in congregation, is interested in becoming Emmanuel's Treasurer, please contact Tom Kannemann (thomask2@rogers.com) or Lynn Solvason (lynn.solvason@sympatico.ca) or the church office. There is an annual honorarium paid to the Treasurer.

Join our **Let's Talk Tuesdays** Zoom Coffee and Conversation. Share in the reflective and stimulating conversation hosted by Ron MacDonald. Email publicity@emmanuelunited.ca for the Zoom link.

Call for Annual Report Submissions! Items are due on January 20th, you are encouraged to keep your text brief, please share it with the office as soon as possible.

The Thursday Morning Discussion Group is resuming this week, picking up at the time of King David. All are welcome to join us for our interesting and lively conversations. Please contact Evelyn Perkins (perkeve@hotmail.com) or any member of Heretics for further information or a Zoom invitation.



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 5 Worship Coffee and Conversation	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall/Kitchen
Monday, January 6 Take Time to be Wholey Riverboys Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Room 9/10 Zoom
Tuesday, January 7 Tai Chi Let's Talk Tuesdays Quilting Coffee at 3 Sisters Christie Lake Kids	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Rooms 7, 9/10 3 Sisters C.E. Hall
Wednesday, January 8 Active Artists P&G Meeting Finance Meeting Voices Rock Medicine	11:00 am – 2:00 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Zoom Sanctuary
Thursday, January 9 Tai Chi Discussion Group Emmanubells Al-Anon Choir	9:30 pm – 1:30 pm 10:00 pm – 11:30 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Room 9/10 C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, January 10 Take Time to be Wholey Goma Refugee Fundraiser	10:30 am – 11:30 am 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall C.E. Hall
Saturday, January 11 Men's Club Breakfast	8:15 am – 10:15 am	Perkins Restaurant
Sunday, January 12 Cluster Worship Service	10:30 am – 11:30 am	Glebe St. James