



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

The Gathering

Organ Prelude

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: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

VU 2

The Life & Work of our Community of Faith

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.

Bells Prelude

Ding Dong Merrily on High

*Arr. by Karen Roth
Emmanubells
Dir. Ann Frederking*

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.

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Teddy and Jayden Pare

In this season of waiting,

may we rejoice with patience.

In this season of demands,

may we rejoice with gentleness.

In this season of expectations,

may we rejoice with simplicity. be our companion.

In this season of sharing,

may we rejoice with gratitude be our companion.

In this season of good news,

may we rejoice as we pray.

We light a pink candle for joy this day.

Let us pray.

God of promise,

we light the first three candles

and rejoice, reflecting on how circles of kindness and happiness widen and grow. Amen.

Three candles are lit, two blue for Hope and Peace, and pink for Joy.

Hymn:

Hope is a Star

VU 7

Verses 1, 2, 3

Opening Prayer:

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable joy. Amen.

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: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

MV 36

Commissioning:

This day, rejoice in God.

This day, we will make gentleness known.

This day, place all worries in God's hands.

God's extraordinary peace is watching over us, always.

Blessing

Threefold Amen

Postlude: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

By Robert Lau

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Portions of this service of worship have been adapted from:

Brenda Fawkes, Bethel Lee, Wade Lifton, Donna Scorer, Thom M. Shuman, Donald Schmidt, Nancy Talbot, Susan Burt, "Advent 3," *Seasons of the Spirit*, Congregational Life, Pentecost 2, 2012, p.p. 65-76.

Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., "Third Sunday of Advent," In: *Feasting on the Word*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, p.p. 9-13.

No Scents Makes Good Sense

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

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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:30PM

Our Lay Reader today is Ian Collins. 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.

Thank you to the Emmanubells for their musical offering this morning.

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.

Join our **Tuesday Zoom Coffee and Conversation**. The question to inspire conversation next Tuesday is, *What Christmas memory has stayed with you over the years? It could be a childhood memory, or perhaps a special experience with a place or person that made the holiday season memorable for you.* Email publicity@emmanuelunited.ca for the Zoom link.

From Loss to Light is a service intended for anyone struggling to find cheer during the Christmas Season, join us **Today at 2PM** for a service of solace and hope. The service will be streamed live for those that wish to watch from home.

Join our **Advent Worship Service Wednesday at 7pm** on Zoom. Find the link on Emmanuel's website in the upcoming events section.

The last date to submit expenditures to be expensed in 2024 is Sunday, December 29th. Please submit your signed RFP's at your earliest convenience but no later than December 29th. Thank you very much, Val Dowd (Bookkeeper) and Lynn Solvason (Treasurer).

Stewardship Pledge Reminder for 2025

Thank you to everyone that has submitted their 2025 Pledge Card and filled in the Time and Talent Survey. If you have yet to do so, please find the time; after all it is with your time, your talent, and your presence, that we answer the call together for God's people to be compassionate, to be aware, to do justice, and to respond with the workings of the Spirit.

Emmanuel is looking for a new Church Treasurer

Do you have experience or an interest in finance? We have a strong and supportive finance committee and are in need of a Church Treasurer. If you, or anyone you know of within the congregation is interested in becoming Emmanuel's Treasurer, please contact Tom Kannemann, (thomask2@rogers.com) Lynn Solvason, (lynn.solvason@sympatico.ca) or the church office. There is an annual honorarium paid to the Treasurer.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15 Worship Coffee and Conversation JAM From Loss to Light	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall/Kitchen Sanctuary Sanctuary
Monday, December 16 Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom
Tuesday, December 17 Tai Chi Quilting Coffee Time Coffee at 3 Sisters	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 Room 7, 9/10 Zoom 3 Sisters
Wednesday, December 18 Active Artists Advent Service Voices Rock Medicine	11:00 am – 2:00 pm 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Sanctuary
Thursday, December 19 Tai Chi Pastoral Care Meeting Emmanubells Al-Anon Choir	9:00 am – 1:00 pm 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Library Room 9/10 C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, December 20 Take Time to Be Wholey	10:30 am – 11:30 am	C.E. Hall
Saturday, December 21 Men's Club Breakfast	8:15 am – 10:15 am	Perkins Restaurant