



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* *VU 46*

The Life & Work of our Community of Faith

Christmas Greetings from Iglesias Bautista Emmanuel

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.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle Iga Kurzydlo, Chad Simpson
Two blue candles are lit, for Hope and Peace, a pink candle is lit for Joy.

From ancient days,

God has been present.

From ancient days,

we pray and we listen.

From ancient days,

the promise has sounded.

From ancient days,

we journey in hope.

From ancient days,

love finds new birth.

From ancient days,

we worship in wonder.

We light the fourth candle for love, this day,

just as we have lighted candles of hope, peace and joy.

Let us pray.

God of promise,

we light these four candles

and reflect on how

from age to age

the choice of love

is what we all hope for most. Amen.

A blue candle is lit for Love.

Hymn:

Hope is a Star

VU 7

Opening Prayer:

O God, in your love help us to stir up our power, your power in us: the ability to set one another free, the strength to call for liberation of the oppressed and to have the capacity to generate

kindness and hope in a world that needs your love. Bless us as we celebrate your love in this hour. 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:

Grant

Hymn:

I am Walking a Path of Peace
(1 Hope, 2 Peace, 3 Joy, 4 Love)

MV 221

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture:

Luke 1:39-55

Mary visits Elizabeth. As both women are expecting a child, Elizabeth's leaps inside her upon hearing Mary coming through her door to greet her. Elizabeth then blesses Mary and Mary sings her song.

Musical Offering:

Prepare Ye the Way

*By Michael Barrett
and Martin Smith*

Meditation:

Love Visits Us with a Calling

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

Offering Invitation:

God does not desire us to bring burnt offerings and sin offerings, but instead asks that we do God's will. So we bring to God now the offerings of our lives and our labours, with a prayer that God's will may be done through us.

Offertory Prayer:

Holy One, your gifts to us are many: beauty and joy, love and hope, freedom and mercy. We receive them and know they are meant to be shared. Accept what we offer this day as a sign of

our gratitude and of our commitment to create a more just and caring world. 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:

What Child is This?

VU 74

Commissioning:

Through sun and by the compassion of God –
giver of surprises, lover of justice
held by this remarkable God, we leave this place
**ready to live in gratitude,
ready to reach out in kindness,
ready to walk way of peace.**

Blessing

Threefold Amen

Postlude:

Toccata on “Adeste Fideles” by David H. Hegarty

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: **Rev. Grant Stuckless**
Pastoral Care Provider: **Ron MacDonald**
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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:30PM

Our Lay Reader today is Erika Langner. 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.

Rev Grant will be on vacation from December 25, 2024 through to January 1, 2025. He will be back in the office on Thursday January 2, 2025.

The church office will be closed from December 24, 2024 through to January 5, 2025. Emma will be back in the office on Monday January 6, 2025.

Ron MacDonald will be working and will host the Tuesday Zoom meetings as usual on December 24 and December 31.

For a Pastoral Care Emergency, contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team: Ron MacDonald, Malcolm Collins, Patricia Fairbairn, Terry Henderson, Jon Jones, Jill MacLean, and Joyce White (Keeping in Touch).

Lynn Solvason will be retiring from the position of Church Treasurer at the Annual Meeting in February. Having served faithfully as Treasurer since 2008, Lynn has provided exceptional financial acumen and guidance to the finance committee, other committees of the Church, and Council, and we thank her for her hard work and the many years she has dedicated to the position. 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. Join in the conversation on Christmas Eve, hosted by Ron MacDonald. Email publicity@emmanuelunited.ca for the Zoom link.

Join us on Christmas Eve for worship, at 5pm for the family service, or at 7:30pm for Christmas Readings and Carols.

The last date to submit expenditures to be expensed in 2024 is noon Sunday December 29th. Please submit your signed RFP's as soon as possible. Thank you very much to everyone who has already met this important deadline. Regards, Val Dowd (Bookkeeper) and Lynn Solvason (Treasurer).

On **Sunday January 12th**, Emmanuel and other members of the South-East Ottawa Cluster of Churches will be worshipping together at **Glebe St. James United Church, at 10:30am, at 650 Lyon Street**, in Ottawa. There will be no worship service at Emmanuel on this day.

We remember Doris Smith, and Eva-May Hamilton who recently passed away. These women were longtime members of our community with whom we share many memories. Our condolences are extended to the friends and families of Doris and Eva-May.

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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 4," *Seasons of the Spirit*, Congregational Life, Pentecost 2, 2012, p.p. 77-91.

Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., "Fourth Sunday of Advent," *In: Feasting on the Word*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, p.p. 14-19.

No Scents Makes Good Sense

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

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22 Worship Coffee and Conversation JAM	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall/Kitchen Sanctuary
Monday, December 23 Christian Meditation	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Zoom
Tuesday, December 24 Let's Talk Tuesdays Family Service Readings & Carols Service	10:00 am – 11:00 am 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Zoom Sanctuary Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25		
Thursday, December 26		
Friday, December 27		
Saturday, December 28		