

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: *River Running in You and Me* **MV 163**

Call to Worship:

How can the dead be raised to life?

**The single grain of wheat that falls to the earth will die –
but when it does, it will come to life again
and bear much good fruit for the kingdom of God.**

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

**God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good,
sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us
your way of grace – to meet hatred with kindness, to answer
curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give
without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

Music Offering: *There is a Balm in Gilead* *Arr. Mark Hayes*
Soloist Julie Henderson

(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've Got Peace Like a River* **VU 577**

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: **Genesis 45:3-11,15**

After the siblings have been estranged for many years, Joseph, now of high esteem in Egypt, reveals himself with good news.

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus, in his sermon on the plain with the disciples, teaches about loving our enemies and not judging others.

Music Offering: *River in Judea* *By John Leavitt*

Meditation: **The Risk of Relationship**

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn: *This is God's Wondrous World* *VU 296*

Offering Invitation:

Children of the Most High God,
in obedience to Jesus' words to love others as we love ourselves,
do good, bless and pray for friends and enemies alike,
let us now do to others as we would have them do to us,
offering our gifts for the sake of our siblings in need.

Offertory Prayer:

**Holy God, you have given us land in which to grow and thrive,
food for survival and pleasure, air and water, fire and cold.
Make our thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others in
the name of the one who gave everything for us. 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:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

VU 288

Commissioning:

Do not judge and you will not be judged;
do not condemn and you will not be condemned.

**Forgive and you will be forgiven;
give, and it will be given to you.**

For God is kind to all and full of mercy.

**Filled with life-giving spirit of our Creator, Redeemer and
Sustainer,**

we bear the image of the risen one

**and take delight in the abundance of what we have already
received.**

Blessing

Threefold Amen

Music Offering:

Down to the River We Pray

By George H. Allen

Jim Lamb

Joel Brohman

Words and Music reproduced with permission under One License A-610090

Portions of this service of worship have been adapted from:

Kimberly Bracken Long, "Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany," *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, p.p. 78-83.

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 Krista Schneider. 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.

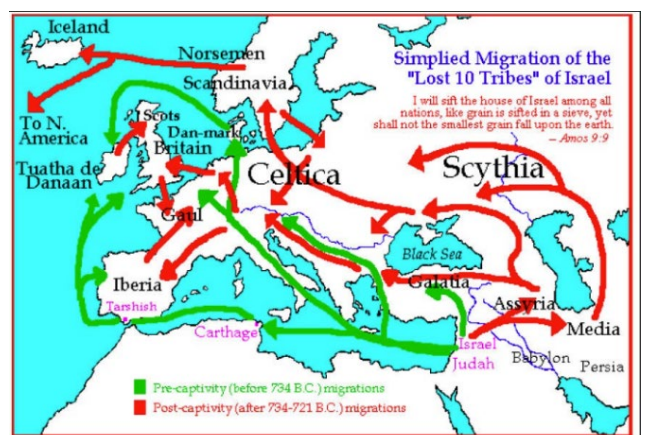
Welcome to Emmanuel! If you are a newcomer or visitor this morning, we invite you to sign our **Guest Book** in the narthex with your name and contact information and join us in a time of fellowship in the CE Hall following worship.

Join our **Let's Talk Tuesdays** Zoom Coffee and Conversation. Children have a unique way of reminding us to see the world with fresh eyes and a sense of wonder. How have children pushed us to rethink our lives and challenge the way we see the world today? We read in Mark: Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Email publicity@emmanuelunited.ca for the Zoom link.

The **Thursday Morning Discussion Group** is enjoying the reading and analysis of the Hebrew Bible. This week we will be looking at the books of **Esther** and **Daniel**, which serve to illuminate life in the Jewish Diaspora. 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.

A Song of Faith Lunch and Learn Program ~ put on by the Southeast Ottawa Cluster to study the Song of Faith. The program runs every Thursday at noon; this weeks meeting is at Southminster. *The theme for Feb. 27th is "The Person of Jesus the Christ".* You may participate in any or all sessions. More information is on our website under



UPCOMING EVENTS or you may talk to Rev. Grant or Phyllis MacRae.

The Annual Congregational Meeting—ACM will be held after the service **Today, at 11:30 am**. All are welcome to attend. A light lunch will be served from the lounge, immediately following worship and before the start of the meeting.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report are on the hutch outside the office.

This *Thursday February 27th* Emmanuel will be serving as a **Polling Place** for the provincial election.

Seedy Saturday's annual seed sale is happening at Emmanuel on *Saturday, March 1st*. There are workshops and a number of vendors that will be present. Stop by and check it out if you are able.

OMRA Grocery Card Sales for February are cancelled due to the poor weather last week and the Annual Meeting this week. The next planned date is on *Sunday, March 16th* following the worship service. If you would like to purchase grocery cards in the interim, please reach out to Janice Péron to make arrangements.

FINANCE

The CRA has confirmed that the 2024 charitable donation deadline will be extended to February 28, 2025. This means that tax receipts for donations made between January 1, 2025 and February 28, 2025 may also be eligible to be claimed as charitable tax credits on 2024 Canadian income tax returns. **The Finance Committee has decided not to issue tax receipts for all donations received between January 1 and February 28, 2025, but will do so upon individual request.** Should you wish to claim donations made during the extension period on your 2024 Income Tax return please contact Keith Jeacle, Envelope Secretary at envelope.secretary@emmanuelunited.ca **NOTE: Keith will be in Zambia from March 6 – 22, 2025 and will not be able to process your request during that time period.**

The Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC) of The United Church of Canada presents: **Election 2025: More than Tariffs**. Digging into the issues from a position of faith. Ontario goes to the polls on Feb 27th. Tariffs are in the news, but there is so much more to consider. Advance registration is required. Check out the event as listed on our website in the UPCOMING EVENTS to register!

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Sunday, February 23 Worship Coffee and Conversation Annual Meeting | 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 pm – 1:30 pm | Sanctuary Lounge Sanctuary |
| Monday, February 24 Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation | 10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm | C.E. Hall Zoom |
| Tuesday, February 25 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 Kitchen/C.E. Hall |
| Wednesday, February 26 Active Artists Polling Place Setup TELEOS Voices Rock Medicine | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm | C.E. Hall C.E. Hall/Narthex Zoom Sanctuary |
| Thursday, February 27 Polling Place Discussion Group Song of Faith Study Emmanubells Choir | 7:00 am – 11:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:30 pm 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm | C.E. Hall/Narthex Zoom Southminster Room 9/10 Sanctuary |
| Friday, February 28 Take Time to be Wholey Seedy Saturday Setup | 10:30 am – 11:30 am 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm | C.E. Hall Sanctuary |
| Saturday, March 1 Seedy Saturday Sale | 7:00 am – 7:00 pm | Whole Church |