



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30, 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.

Gathering Hymn: *Are You a Shepherd?* *MV 126*

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.

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:

God of the Bible

MV 28

Call to Worship:

From far-away places,
from close at hand;
from hearts troubled
with minds at rest,
welcome your people, Holy One.

For we come to worship you.

Carrying heavy loads,
travelling light;
walking in fear,
living in faith,
Welcome your people, Holy One.

**For we come to worship you
with all that is good in our lives
with all that hurts and hinders us
with past and present in us
and the future before us.**

**We come to worship you
and find our way home.**

Come, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

**From the moment You spoke, O God
from the flicker of first light,
You have journeyed with creation
outward and back,
making changes here and there,
letting there be growth and new life,
returning back to places of rest
to dream new dreams,
to spark new visions
of wonder,
of light,
of the unfolding drama of creation's story.**

All along the path with you,
we gather at the edges of Your cloak
joining the dance,
tripping along behind
getting lost at so many turns and twists
then finding a way home again.

Our paths cross,
intermingle,
shift and swirl
as life leads us on
in the unfolding drama of our own story.

If a resting place
if a meeting point
if a fork in the road
whatever be this space and this moment
use it, God, to shape and inspire us
and grant to us a glimpse of home.
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:

Latisha

Hymn:

I Am A Child of God

MV 157

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture:

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Music Offering: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Arr by Virgil Thomson

Meditation:

Quiet Reflection and Prayer:

Hymn:

O God, How We Have Wandered

VU 112

Offertory Invitation:

As people of the New Creation, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory Prayer:

As the prodigal made for home we turn back to you, O God. As the parent celebrated his return we rejoice with all who love you. We are not worthy to receive all that we have and what we offer is a simple token of all that you have given. So receive us and our offerings as we come with grateful hearts into the love of God: Creator, Redeemer and Spirit. 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:

Teach Me, God, to Wonder

VU 299

Commissioning:

Arms opened wide to receive us,
**love given freely to reshape us,
forgiveness generously shared to redeem us.**

Blessing:

Go into the world in peace and joy to journey again with God.
The blessing of God Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit be yours, now and always.

Threefold Amen

Postlude:

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: **Rev. Grant Stuckless**

Pastoral Care Provider: **Ron MacDonald**

Interim Choir Director: **Ann McNamee**

Collaborative 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 Camille den Boer. 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.

During this season of Lent we hope that the music played during the postlude will encourage some quiet reflection. For some, this time of contemplation may be lengthy, so we ask that you respect this as you quietly leave the sanctuary.

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. This week consider how: "Colours, like features, follow the changes of the emotions" (Pablo Picasso). What have you noticed about your colour preferences? Have you ever noticed your colour preferences shifting with your moods or life experiences? If your personality were a colour today, what would it be and why? For the Zoom link, email publicity@emmanuelunited.ca.

Take part in **Lenten Worship Services** on Zoom, Wednesday at 7pm.

Basic Income Now: a community anti-poverty initiative to advocate for a federal basic income plan for Canada. Signs are available for you to take home. If you want to order one please contact the office or Phyllis MacRae (pmjmacrae@gmail.com).

A lunch and conversation opportunity for seniors is once again being organized by the Pastoral Care Provider for *Monday April 7th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.* The conversation focus is: **Living with Transitions** – Who have you turned to for support during the changes that come with aging?

Aging brings many transitions—some expected, others surprising—that can affect our daily lives, relationships, and sense of purpose. During these times of change, having a support system can make all the difference, whether it's family, friends, community groups, or professional resources.

If interested in attending, contact Ron MacDonald – pastoralcare@emmanuelunited.ca or the office. A free will offering will be collected to cover lunch costs.

CONGO Speaks: Voices from the Crisis

Friday, April 11 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For over 30 years, the crisis in Eastern Congo has been one of the world's deadliest conflicts, yet it remains largely ignored. Join us for an evening of powerful discussions, cultural performances, and expert insights as we amplify the voices of those affected.

This event is a call to awareness, solidarity, and action. We will hear from community leaders, scholars, and activists who will shed light on the ongoing humanitarian crisis, the role of the international community, and how you can be part of the movement for justice and peace.

- Cultural Showcase – Experience traditional Congolese music, spoken word, and performances.
- Panel Discussion – Experts and community leaders break down the complexities of the Eastern DRC conflict.
- Advocacy & Global Solidarity – Learn about Canada's stance and what more needs to be done.
- Keynote Speaker: Yvette Ashiri – president of the Congolese community of Canada Ottawa Gatineau
- Dr. Christina Clark-Kazak – A leading scholar on forced migration and refugee rights.
- This is more than an event—it's a moment to stand together in truth and solidarity. Don't miss it!
- Admission is free. All are welcome.

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

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, "Lent 4," In: Seasons of the Spirit: Seasons FUSION, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p.69-80.

Kimberly Bracken Long, "Fourth Sunday in Lent," Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, p.p. 119-122.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 30 Worship Coffee and Conversation Healing Fund Bake Sale Kiwanis Music Festival	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 2:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Monday, March 31 Kiwanis Music Festival Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation	8:00 am – 9:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Zoom
Tuesday, April 1 Kiwanis Music Festival Tai Chi Let's Talk Tuesdays Quilting Coffee at 3 Sisters Christie Lake Kids	8:00 am – 9:00 pm 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	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Zoom Rooms 7, 9/10 3 Sisters C.E. Hall
Wednesday, April 2 Kiwanis Music Festival Active Artists Lenten Service Voices Rock Medicine	8:00 am – 7:00 pm 11:00 am- 2:00 pm 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm 8:00 pm -9:30 pm	Sanctuary Library Zoom Sanctuary
Thursday, April 3 Kiwanis Music Festival Tai Chi Discussion Group Pastoral Care Team Lecture Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	8:00 am – 5:00 pm 9:30 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:30 am 11:00 am – 3:00 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Zoom Kitchen/Room 24 Room 9/10 C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, April 4 Kiwanis Music Festival Take Time to be Wholey Rainbow Hub	8:00 am – 9:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Kitchen/C.E. Hall
Saturday, April 5 Kiwanis Music Festival	8:00 am – 9:00 pm	Sanctuary