



# WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

**Fifth Sunday of Lent  
April 6, 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:**      *Many are the Lightbeams*      *VU 588*

### **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:**

*River*

*MV 3*

**Call to Worship:**

We gather in the presence of God, the creator of sand and stars:

**ready to worship.**

We gather in the presence of Christ, our guide for setting a table of welcome:

**ready to worship.**

We gather in the presence of the Spirit, our inspiration for moving beyond fear:

**ready to worship.**

We gather in grace.

**We come to worship God.**

**Opening Prayer:**

**God of love, we give you thanks for the many paths we have chosen to travel. Help us remember that whatever direction we set you will be with us. Bless us as our paths converge in this hour. We gather to worship you and in gratitude for one another. 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:**

*What Can I Do?*

*MV 191*

*(Children leave for Sunday school)*

# *We Listen to God's Word*

**Scripture:** John 12:1-8

**Music Offering:** *Praise our Lord* by Ron Klusmeier  
*Soloists: Julie Henderson & Shelly Ferrell*

**Meditation:** Open to New  
("This is Different")

**Quiet Reflection and Prayer:**

**Hymn:** *Take My Life and Let it Be* VU 506

**Offertory Invitation:**

"Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour..."

Through our tithes and offerings, we can give generously, as Mary did, and remember the poor.

As we open wide our hands, we attend to Christ himself, who is present especially among those considered the least and the lost.

Let us offer to God these gifts for ministry in Christ's name.

**Offertory Prayer:**

**We give our gifts this day with gratitude.**

**Through them,**

**may hope come to those who know despair,**

**may love come to those who feel alone,**

**may healing come to those who endure pain.**

**May these gifts be a sign of our commitment**

**to serve you in the 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: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* VU 333

**Commissioning:**

Family of God, go forth into the world that God loves deeply.

**We will bless it with our compassion.**

Renew it with hope.

**In every step we take, we expect to feel anew the peace of Christ,  
the promise of the Spirit and the presence of God.**

**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: *A Reflection on the Cross* by Lowell Mason  
arr. by Heather Sorenson

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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, "Lent 5," In: Seasons of the Spirit: SeasonsFUSION, Lent-Easter, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p. 81-92.

Kimberly Bracken Long, "Fifth Sunday in Lent," *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, p.p. 123-129.

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 Ann Frederking.*** 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 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. *Share your testimony: What would you share with someone about your perspective on death and the hope that comes after it? What Christian beliefs and practices are important to your perspective on death and the hope of eternal life through Christ?* For the Zoom link, email [publicity@emmanuelunited.ca](mailto:publicity@emmanuelunited.ca).

The final **Lenten Worship Service** on Zoom, is this Wednesday at 7pm.

The **Healing Fund Bakesale** was postponed last week and will take place **today** in the C.E. Hall.

The **Men's Club** are meeting for **Breakfast** on *Saturday, April 12*. The Location is to be decided, contact Jon Jones or Terry Henderson for details.

**Communion** will be held on Palm Sunday, **April 13**. Funds from the offering will be directed to our global partner, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, in El Salvador.

The **Thursday Morning Discussion Group** is now following Homebrewed Christianity's Lenten class ***Paul the Pharisee Faith***

*and Politics in a Divided World* with John Dominic Crossan. This week we'll be discussing Paul's relationship with Rome. All are welcome to join us for our interesting and lively conversations. Please contact Evelyn Perkins ([perkeve@hotmail.com](mailto:perkeve@hotmail.com)) or any member of Heretics for further information or a Zoom invitation.

**Basic Income Now:** a community anti-poverty initiative to advocate for a federal basic income plan for Canada . Bring home a sign, found in the narthex, to show your support. If you want to order one please contact the office or Phyllis MacRae ([pmjmacrae@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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.

Admission is free. All are welcome.

## ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, April 6</b> Worship Coffee and Conversation Healing Fund Bake Sale	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall C.E. Hall
<b>Monday, April 7</b> Take Time to be Wholey Transitions Seniors Group Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 11:00 am – 1:30 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Lounge Zoom
<b>Tuesday, April 8</b> Tai Chi Let's Talk Tuesdays Quilting Christie Lake Kids	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Rooms 7, 9/10 C.E. Hall
<b>Wednesday, April 9</b> Active Artists Lenten Service Property & Grounds Finance Meeting Voices Rock Medicine	11:00 am- 2:00 pm 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm 8:00 pm -9:30 pm	Library Zoom Zoom Zoom Sanctuary
<b>Thursday, April 10</b> Tai Chi Discussion Group Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	9:30 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:30 am 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
<b>Friday, April 11</b> Take Time to be Wholey Goma Fundraiser	10:30 am – 11:30 am 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Kitchen/C.E. Hall
<b>Saturday, April 12</b> Men's Club Breakfast	8:15 am – 10:15 am	TBD