

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Palm Sunday

April 13, 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: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* *VU 123*

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.

Music Offering: *Fantasia on “Ellacombe”* arr. Jason W. Krug
Emmanubells
directed by 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.

Hymn: *He Came Riding on a Donkey*

VU 124

Call to Worship:

**Steadfast God,
it has been a long journey.
We have been with ancestors in the desert
and sought you in unexpected places.
We have left footprints in the sand
and our souls in the wilderness.
Our names have been written across star-fields
and new generations are still being born among us today.
The pilgrimage has been long
but the promise runs in our blood.
Now the long shadow of the cross
and the footsteps of Jesus
find us waiting at the gates of Jerusalem.**

**We have arrived.
Yet it seems the journey is still not complete;
there is a deeper journey still to make.
This Lenten wandering
has been just the beginning.
The greatest story is still to be told.
Come let us gather at the gates of the city;
the crowds are preparing to enter.**

Opening Prayer:

**May we be your disciples today, O Jesus,
where we know what we cry,
where we take to heart the hosannas
and live them beyond the parade.**

**May we be your supporters today, O Jesus,
where we know the saviour you are,**

where we intend to follow you
from gate to garden.

May we be your voice today, O Jesus,
where we cry out against the protests,
where we stake our faith and lives
on what you begin here today. 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: *When I Pray for You* *by Matthew Paul Turner*
 Illustrated by Kimberly Barnes
 Myrna

Hymn: *And On This Path* **MV 8**

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: **Luke 19:28-30**

Anthem: *Come to the Table of the Lord*
 by Patrick M. Liebergen
 Viola: Ann Frederking

Meditation: **A Royal Occupation for Justice**

Quiet Reflection and Prayer:

Hymn: *When They Heard Jesus Was Coming* **MV 128**

Offertory Invitation:

God has given us his only Child, Jesus Christ, as the way of salvation.
Let us then give generously, as God has given to us.

Offertory Prayer:

Holy One,

**We give you thanks for the great deeds of plenty and abundance
you provide. Bless these offerings of thanksgiving that they may**

further your kingdom in this world; through Jesus Christ we pray. 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.**

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: *All Who Hunger* **460 VU**

Scripture Sentences: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as long as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Invitation:

As Jesus was called to the cross, as we are called on our journey, at times, to difficult chapters and places, we go forth now remembering Jesus as he walked with his disciples to the Upper Room.

We remember together.

We are not alone.

Let us pray our Thanksgiving Prayers.

Thanksgiving Prayers:

Amid all these people, O God, we find you breaking through with life
once more – ever the life,
ever the life

and also on the night you, as Christ, were betrayed amid the company of
disciples we find you tearing the bread and lifting the cup promising the
life
promising the life

and in the faithfulness of followers and the confusion of disciples are
your words of remembering put back the broken pieces
put back the broken pieces

and so the bread is broken and the story starts of your brokenness and
suffering and cross leading to life
leading to life

the cup of wine too: the blood and the covenant of the love of heaven
opening up life
opening up life

so these symbols at the end of this meal are the start of a new way that
speak about life
speak about life

inviting us to follow and walk your path into olive groves and rubbish
dumps seeking out life
seeking out life

trusting you always through the darkness and the danger the betrayal and
denial trusting in life
trusting in life.

Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Blessed is the one who bears your name
Hosanna in the highest

and so we tell your wholly human story of giving and breaking
of spilling and loving
believing in life
believing in life

and in this bread and this wine the story continues
bread set apart for this story only
as you eat with your disciples and trust the impossible
trusting love
trusting love.

This is the week:
Jesus is betrayed when the darkness gathers and the world conspires.
This is the week:
Jesus gathers his friends and speaks of heaven.
This is the week:
Jesus breaks bread and speaks through it,
“my body broken for you.”

(The breaking of the bread).

This is the week:
Jesus is given over when the lights go out and the world laughs.
This is the week:
Jesus shares with his friends a broken way and a kiss of betrayal.

(The lifting of the cup).

This is the week:
Jesus takes the cup and invests it with the new covenant sealed in blood.

This is the week:
Jesus breaks this bread – his body;
and shares this cup – his life –
with us.

This is our statement:
an act that speaks into the world
beyond words.

Distribution:

Prayer after Communion:
For the path we take,
Dark and difficult,

Real in matter and final in ending,

We remember what you have done in Jesus, O God.

We thank you.

Bless us now,

That as we have taken your words and wisdom into our lives,

We also take your love out into the world. Amen.

Hymn:

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

VU 127

Commissioning:

May we walk among the voices of “hosanna” and “crucify.”

We share the journey with Jesus

and listen for the crushing of love.

We long for the moment it breaks open again.

Come.

Blessing:

Threefold Amen

Postlude:

Andante Semplice

by Ernest Tomlinson

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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, "Palm, Passion Sunday," In: *Seasons of the Spirit*:

SeasonsFUSION, Lent-Easter, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p. 93-102.

Kimberly Bracken Long, “Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday,” *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, p.p. 130-133.

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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, directed by Ann Frederking, for their music this morning.

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.

Communion will be held today, with funds from the offering directed to our global partner, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, in El Salvador.

Book Club meets in the Lounge at 7pm on Monday, April 14th to discuss *The Road Years* by Rick Mercer, discussion lead by Jill.

Celebration of Life for Cathy Borza, at 10am on Tuesday, April 15th you are invited to attend a service for Cathy, followed by a reception.

Let's Talk Tuesdays Zoom Coffee and Conversation is cancelled this week. All ZOOM participants are invited to join Ed Borza and family to celebrate the life of their beloved Cathy. If you can't join in person, you can join online. The Celebration of Cathy's Life begins at 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service: Join us at 7:15 pm on Thursday, April 17th in person at Emmanuel.

Good Friday Church Service: Emmanuel is taking part in a joint service with the Ottawa Mennonite Church. at 10:30 am on Friday, April 18th at 1830 Kilborn Ave.

Easter Sunrise Service: at 8:30 am on Sunday, April 20th there will be a sunrise service in the garden (weather permitting,) or in the sanctuary. The service will be followed by muffins and your choice of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate in the C.E. Hall.

Please be aware that both Lynn Solvason (our Treasurer) and Val Dowd (our Bookkeeper) will both be away in April and May. If you have any expense claims to make, please submit them by April 20th in order to be reimbursed in a timely manner. Lynn will be away April 21-May 20 and Val will be away April 27-May 24.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 13 Worship Coffee and Conversation Let’s Stay Together	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am-3:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Kitchen/C.E. Hall
Monday, April 14 Take Time to be Wholey Seedy Sat. Meeting Book Club Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall C.E. Hall Lounge Zoom
Tuesday, April 15 Cathy Borza Funeral Quilting Christie Lake Kids River Boys	10:00 am – 3:00 pm 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Sanctuary/C.E. Hall Rooms 7, 9/10 C.E. Hall Room 9/10
Wednesday, April 16 Active Artists Voices Rock Medicine	11:00 am- 2:00 pm 8:00 pm -9:30 pm	Library Sanctuary
Thursday, April 17 Tai Chi Discussion Group Emmanubells Maundy Thursday Service Al Anon Choir	9:30 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:30 am 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm 7:15 pm – 7:45 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:45 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Room 9/10 Sanctuary C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, April 18 Good Friday Joint Service	10:30 am – 11:30 am	Mennonite Church
Saturday, April 19		
Sunday, April 20 Sunrise Service Worship Coffee and Conversation	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Garden Sanctuary C.E. Hall