



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 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 Music:

A Joyful Ring

by Barbara Kinyon

Emmanubells and St. Andrew's Ringers

Directed by Ann Frederking

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, youth, siblings, 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.

Hymn:

I, the Lord, of Sea and Sky

VU 509

Call to Worship:

There is a resurrection story of a man who was blind to God,
turning on a Damascus roadway towards a new life in Christ;
and with light breaking through hatred's walls and a victim's grace-filled encouragement,

the persecutor's eyes were opened once more and how different everything was.

This is the place of rebirth. Come and be renewed.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Welcoming God,

May our welcome to others

be as great as yours has been to us:

to those who are hungry, may we offer bread;

to those who are broken, may we offer healing;

to those who are lost, may we offer nourishment;

to those who are doubting, a new adventure.

May this be a place of grace

where what is offered is served to others,

trusting in your redeeming love, O God.

Amen.

Musical Offering:

African Alleluia

by Cathy Moglebust

St Andrew's Ringers

Directed by Dominique Moreau

(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:

Val

Hymn:

Halleu, Halleu

(Children leave for Sunday school)

Reflection on Red Dress Sunday

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture:

John 21:1-19

Musical Offering:

Acclamation in G Minor

by Karen Thompson

Emmanubells

Directed by Ann Frederking

Meditation:

Keeping Up Appearances

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn:

Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus

VU 661

Offertory Invitation:

May this be a place of welcome, a home to all, a community of forgiveness, a place to learn how to be together, a way of growing closer together, learning from each other, beginning to trust one another.

Thank you for giving to support Emmanuel United Church. We take a moment now to dedicate our offerings.

Offertory Prayer:

Creator God,

may we be the change that opens our community to the impossible, that accepts people can change and be renewed, and that your patience and time is long enough for us to find the right time to come to believe love is stronger than hate, goodness is stronger than evil, life is stronger than death.

**Hear us as we dedicate ourselves and our futures to you, trusting your grace-filled love, that can change everything.
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: *Open My Eyes, That I May See* *VU 371*

Commissioning:

In the sanctuary we have praised God.

On holy ground we have walked with God.

We have been fed and nurtured and go now with thankful hearts.

Blessing:

The blessing of God Creator, Son and Spirit be yours now and always.

Threefold Amen

Postlude: *The Music of the Spheres* by Kevin McChesney
Emmanubells and St. Andrew's Ringers
Directed by Dominique Moreau
Organ: Abigail Sánchez-Rojas

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

Pastoral Care Provider: **Ron MacDonald**

Interim Choir Director: **Ann McNamee**

Collaborative Pianist: **Abigail Sánchez Rojas**

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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:30PM

Our Lay Reader today is Justin Grace Mulder. 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 and to St. Andrew's Ringers directed by Dominique Moreau for offering their music to our worship this morning.

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.

May 5th is National Red Dress Day. It is a day to remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, men, and two-spirit people (MMIWG2S+) in Canada. Emmanuel participates in the REDress Project by hanging red dresses and shirts in the trees outside of the church building along Smyth Road. The installation is intended to draw the eye of those passing by and introduce them to the on-going plight of the MMIWG2S+ people and their communities. The installation is a solemn memorial to those whose lives were lost, and in support of grieving families still waiting for justice.

Let's Talk Tuesdays Zoom Coffee and Conversation. This week's question is: *How do you deal with a diversity of thought?*

Email publicity@emmanuelunited.ca for the Zoom link.

There will be a **Spring Pilgrimage at Vincent Massey Park** on *Wednesday May 7 10am-2pm* (Rain date May 21st) with the theme: No one Stands Alone. A Sign up sheet on bulletin board opposite CE Hall, or contact Irene Bakker, Jill MacLean, or Ron MacDonald. Full details will be sent to all who register.

The Men's Club will meet on Saturday, May 10th, contact Jon Jones or Terry Henderson for details.

Loli Zahinda will fill in in the office while our Office Administrator Emma Dowd is on vacation from the April 30th- May 19th.

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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, “Easter 3,” In: *Seasons of the Spirit*: SeasonsFUSION, Lent-Easter, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p. 133-144.

Kimberly Bracken Long, “Third Sunday of Easter,” *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, p.p. 153-156.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 4 Worship Coffee and Conversation JAM Practice	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am-1:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Monday, May 5 Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom
Tuesday, May 6 Quilting Tai Chi Let’s Talk Tuesdays Christie Lake Kids	10:00 am – 3:00 pm 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Rooms 7, 9/10 C.E. Hall Zoom C.E. Hall
Wednesday, May 7 Spring Pilgrimage Active Artists Voices Rock Medicine	10:00 am – 2:00 pm 11:00 am- 2:00 pm 8:00 pm -9:30 pm	V. Massey Park Library Sanctuary
Thursday, May 8 Tai Chi Discussion Group Cluster Planning Meeting Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:30 am 10:30 am – 2:00 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Lounge Sanctuary C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, May 9 Take Time to be Wholey	10:30 am – 11:30 am	C.E. Hall
Saturday, May 10 Men’s Club Breakfast Private Rental	8:15 am – 10:15 am 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	TBD C.E. Hall/Kitchen