



**WELCOME TO
EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2025**

The Gathering

Prelude:

Acknowledging the Territory

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people who are the traditional guardians of the land on which we worship this morning - land which remains unceded. We acknowledge the work of past, present and future caretakers of this territory who share the light of their traditional knowledge. We have the desire to work towards reconciliation and acknowledge that we must live with responsibility and respect on this land.

Hymn: *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star* **MV 220**

The Life and Work of our Community of Faith:

Lighting of the Christ and Affirming Candles:

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:

The First Noel
Verses 1, 2, 3, and 6

VU 91

Call to Worship:

People of God, let us gather in worship and praise. For we have followed the star and discovered the birth of a new light.

What will we take with us on this journey?

We will need courage, and hope, and companions.

How will we know which way to go?

Trusting in God's word, listening to our hearts, welcoming the outsider, we will find the way.

Thanks be to God for the story that invites us to enter in.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Creator, your presence is alive in our hearts. Jesus, your new life invites us to journey with you. Spirit, you light a path for us, even through shadows and fear. Bless our words and worship this day, so they might encourage us and give us hope. 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:

Dream a Dream

MV 158

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: **John 1:1-14 (NRSVUE)**

Anthem: **Follow the Star** **by Divine Tunes**
Joel Brohman (vocals)
Jim Lamb (guitar)
Dan Perkins (percussion)
& Charles Haggart (bass)

Message: **Your Christmas is Too Small** **E. Bryce**

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn: ***Hope is a Star*** **VU 7**

Offertory Invitation

The travellers brought their gifts, not knowing how they would be used, but in faith that God would transform them. May our gifts also transform injustice into compassion, and fear into courage, with the Spirit's blessing.

Offertory Prayer:

Holy God, infinite presence, you live in our hearts and in our hands. Open us to generosity and bless these gifts we offer, for we offer them in Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, who is in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
may your kingdom come,
may your 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 yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: ***Unto Us a Boy is Born*** **VU 54**

Commissioning:

Let us go forth, with the courage of people with an amazing gift to share with the world.

Let us carry our faith and hope wherever it leads.
For we do not go alone.

Blessing:

Amen: *Great Amen (Mass of Creation)* by Marty Haugen

Postlude:

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Portions of this service of worship have been adapted from:

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

Our congregation is organized by its members and adherents. Several committees direct various functions, but our common life is made possible by many more who give of their time and talents.

Thank you to our Lay Reader Janice Peron. If you would like to be a lay reader in the future, email Janet Campbell at jicampbell@hotmail.com.

Thank you to the production team, ushers, decorators, and coffee hosts for bringing us today's worship service and coffee and conversation time.

Thank you to Rev. Elizabeth Bryce for leading our worship service today.

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

The ushers have copies of the **Anthem Lyrics** for anyone interested.

Join **Let's Talk Tuesdays**, on Zoom. Each week the group has a lively discussion on a range of topics, spiritual and personal, as well as an opportunity to catch up with each other. Contact the Office for the zoom link.

The Men's Club will meet for breakfast at Roger's Italian Bistro at 8:30 am on Saturday, January 10th.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 4 Worship Coffee and Conversation	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall
Monday, January 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, January 6 Tai Chi Quilting Let's Talk Tuesdays Coffee Social Christie Lake Kids	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Room 9/10 Zoom Three Sisters C.E. Hall/Kitchen
Wednesday, January 7 Active Artists Voices Rock Music	11:00 am – 2:00 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Library Sanctuary
Thursday, January 8 Tai Chi Heretics Discussion Group Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	10:00 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
Friday, January 9 Take Time to be Wholey	10:30 am – 11:30 am	C.E. Hall
Saturday, January 10 Men's Club Breakfast	8:30 am – 10:30 pm	Roger's Italian Bistro