



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 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:

Joy Shall Come

VU 23

The Life and Work of our Community of Faith:

Lighting of the Affirm Candle:

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.

Emmanubells:

The Babe the Son of Mary

Greensleeves

arr. by Jason W. Krug

Music acquired in loving memory of Joan Craig

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader1:

In the waiting, life stirs.

In the darkness, a light shines.

During Advent, we remember that Christ is the light that brings life to the world, the light that reaches into the darkness.

With each candle we light, we proclaim that the light of Christ is stronger than the shadows, and the life He brings is everlasting.

(Light the first and second candles)

Reader2:

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

It shines with warmth and celebration, like the first light of morning after a long night.

Christ's light brings joy — joy that rises above sorrow.

(Light the third candle, the pink candle.)

God of joy, make our hearts light. Let us feel the joy of your light as we rejoice in your coming. Help us share that joy with others.

Amen.

Hymn:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

VU 2

Call to Worship: *(inspired by Psalm 146:5-10)*

O my soul, praise the Holy One!

I will praise the Holy One all my life,

sing to my God while I have my being.

The Holy One gives sight when we are blind, and raises us up when we are worn down.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Enflamed by your empowering love, we gather, O God, willing to be stilled, yet willing to be moved. We come, so our lives might continue to be enlarged by you in greater fullness, kindness and joy for the living. Bless us as we joyfully give you our praise.

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:

Sounding Joy

video by Ellie Holcomb

Hymn:

Hope is a Star

VU 7

Verse 3

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture:

Luke 1:46-55

Anthem:

Emmanuel is Coming

by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Meditation:

Mary Sings for Joy and Justice

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn:

Joy to the World

VU 59

Offertory Prayer:

Our spirits rejoice and give praise for the goodness revealed in our midst. We are grateful for the presence of this community, for the sustenance of the Earth, for hands that care and hearts that love. We pause to reflect on the richness within and around us this day.

(Silent reflection)

In a spirit of joy and gratitude may we become greater reflections of God's goodness in our world. 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: *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* VU 328

Commissioning:

As long as the sun burns in the sky,
God is the warm love between us.
As long as the tides of the ocean ebb and flow;
God is the constant peace in our lives.
As long as the mountains stand and the plains spread wide,
we will live the love and peace of God in our world.
You are the sprig of hope,
the shoot of promise bursting forth in our day;
go to enliven God's peace.

Blessing:

May each life make large the Spirit of God
and may we know the fullness of God's favour
resting upon each one of us as we leave this place.
The Mighty One is doing good things in and through us.
Go and give birth to the justice and love which has been planted within
you by the Spirit of God.

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

Postlude: *Angel Suite* arr. Phillip Keveren

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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, In: “Advent 3”, *Seasons of the Spirit: Congregational Life*, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p. 47-55.

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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.

Our Lay Reader today is Ian Collins. 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 Mary Lou Brotherton and her grandson Apollo for lighting the Advent Candles today.

Thank you to the Emmanubells, directed by Ann Frederking for their music this morning.

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.

Join **Let's Talk Tuesdays**, on Zoom. This week the discussion will ask: if you had to describe the meaning of Christmas to someone without making any reference to the Christian story, how would you describe the meaning of Christmas? Contact the Office for the zoom link.

An **Advent Evening Service** will be held on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday, December 17th.

From Loss to Light Service Sunday, Dec 14th 2PM

In Person and Live Streamed at: emmanuelunited.ca, This service is for anyone who for any reason, is grieving or having trouble finding peace. May it be the solace you are yearning for. All are welcome!

Join us for lunch **Let's Stay Together** today, you can choose between joining a carol sing, making a Christmas ornament, or decorating a gingerbread house. There is a fee of \$14 for those interested in making a gingerbread house, and pre-registration is required. The signup sheet is on the board outside the C.E. Hall.

This week the Thursday Morning Discussion Group (**Heretics**) will meet for an informal chat. They will then go on a Christmas break until January 8, when they will start with the book Brian McLaren's book, ***A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith*** by Brian

McLaren. Please contact the church office or any member of Heretics for further information and a Zoom invitation.

Prayer Shawls are needed! Wool and patterns are provided. If you are interested in helping out, call Patricia Fairbairn, 613- 736-1709. Shawls are delivered by the Pastoral Care Team.

December 21st Creche Displays – you are invited to bring your family creche to display in the CE hall during coffee and conversation. A short note about any special significance to your family can be included.

The deadline to submit Requests for Payment (RFP's) for 2025 is Sunday, Dec. 21st. Please submit your requests on or before this date. Early submissions are greatly appreciated. Val Dowd, Bookkeeper.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 14 Worship Coffee and Conversation JAM Let’s Stay Together From Loss to Light	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am – 1:00 pm 11:30 am – 1:00 pm 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Room 9/10 C.E. Hall Sanctuary/Lounge
Monday, December 15 Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom
Tuesday, December 16 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, December 17 Active Artists Advent Evening Service Voices Rock Music	11:00 am – 2:00 pm 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Library Zoom Sanctuary
Thursday, December 18 Tai Chi Pastoral Care Meeting Heretics Discussion Group Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 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 Library Zoom Sanctuary C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, December 19 Take Time to be Wholey	10:30 am – 11:30 am	C.E. Hall
Saturday, December 20		