



**WELCOME TO
EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
First Sunday of Black History Month
Third Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026**

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:

You Are Holy

MV 45

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:

I Can Feel You Near Me God

MV 48

Call to Worship:

Friends, come!

We gather around deep insight.

We feed on words of unusual wisdom,

seeing before us an unfolding vision of a renewed and just world as close and real as our breathing.

Come!

Jesus, our teacher, healer, leader and friend invites our good and attentive company.

Our time together will be blessed.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Open to your Spirit and alive to the Christ, who was, who is and who comes, we gather in thanksgiving, O God. We offer you our adoration, our acclaim, and our very lives as we sing and worship you in this hour. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome into the Church by Baptism

Arya Amani Zahinda

child of Crispin and Rebecca Zahinda.

Statement concerning baptism

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit we are called, claimed and commissioned. We are called God's own, given our identity as children of God; we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, united with each other and the Christian community of every time and place; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

Presentation of the Candidate

On behalf of the congregation at Emmanuel United Church, I present Arya Amani Zahinda, child of Crispin and Rebecca for invitation into the body of Christ through baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promises

As parents of this child, I ask:

Do you believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

I will, by the grace of God.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, by the grace of God.

Will you join with your family of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, by the grace of God.

Commitment of the Parents

Will you share your faith with your child, growing with them in faith, hope and love?

I will, by the grace of God.

Congregational Commitment

We receive this child in Christ's name. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ. Let us pledge our support and care.

As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you with our outreach and prayers.

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

Pouring of the Water and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Listen to the sound of the water...

Watch the pouring...

Water is crystal clear so that the light shines through. Water cleanses and heals. The pouring is a symbol of the pouring out of God's Spirit upon God's people. Water was used for the baptism of Jesus. The early followers of Jesus baptized those who professed belief in him. Today we continue this practice as we welcome this child into our community of faith.

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Inviting the Family to Come Forward

The Act of Baptism

Arya Amani Zahinda

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, One God, Parent to us all. Amen.

Marking of the Sign of the Cross

I mark you with the cross, the sign of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Laying on of Hands

May the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life. Amen.

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, Arya has been received into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

We welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

Presentation of a Gift and Certificate

Blessing

(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:

Amelia

Hymn:

I Am a Child of God

MV 157

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture:

Matthew 5:1-12

Anthem:

The Lord's Prayer

*from African Sanctus
by David Fanshawe
arr. by Jacques Rizzo*

Meditation: The Beatitudes - Foundations of Blessing

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn:

Blest Are They

VU 896

Offertory Prayer:

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labour reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. 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:

Go Make a Diff'rence

MV 209

Commissioning:

Friends of God, followers of Jesus and people of Spirit, go into this day and week, alive to the vision that is God's realm of peace, joy and compassion.

We will hold true to our call. We will continually seek the grace and wisdom of Jesus the Christ.

Blessing:

Amen:

Great Amen (Mass of Creation)

by Marty Haugen

Postlude:

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Brenda Fawkes, Bethel Lee, Wade Lifton, Donna Scorer, Thom M. Shuman, Donald Schmidt, Nancy Talbot, Susan Burt, In: “Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany”, *Seasons of the Spirit: Congregational Life*, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p. 101-108.

Kimberly Bracken Long, “Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany: Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication,” In: *Feasting on the Word*, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013, p. 59.

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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 Bob Gander. Thank you for your part in our worship service this morning.

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

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’s discussion topic is: On Wednesday March 18th there will be a seniors gathering for lunch, followed by a sing-along. What songs would you suggest for the sing-along?

You are invited to join Rebecca and Crispin Zahinda after the February service as they celebrate the baptism of their daughter, Arya Zahinda.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Potluck Lunch on Anniversary Sunday. There was a great variety of food, warm fellowship and willing workers as we came together in community.

Annual Reports Due! Anyone with a contribution for the 2025 Annual report is asked to submit items to the Office by Monday, February 2nd. (Finance items are due February 9th.) Whenever possible, contributors are asked to limit their text to less than 350 words. Annual reports will be available on Thursday, February 12th.

Let’s Stay Together on Sunday, February 8th After lunch you are invited to join in a tobogganing adventure or film watching. If you are going sledding and need a helmet or winter gear, please let Amelia know before February 5th so we can prepare.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 1 Worship Coffee and Conversation	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall
Monday, February 2 Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation	10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom
Tuesday, February 3 Tai Chi Emmanuel Quilters Let's Talk Tuesdays Neighbourhood Quilters Coffee Social Christie Lake Kids	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 12:30 – 3:00 pm 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Lounge Zoom C.E. Hall Three Sisters C.E. Hall/Kitchen
Wednesday, February 4 Active Artists	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Library
Thursday, February 5 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 Lounge C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, February 6 Take Time to be Wholey Rainbow Hub	10:30 am – 11:30 am 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall C.E. Hall/Kitchen
Saturday, February 7 Inner Journey Canada	4:30 pm – 10:30 pm	C.E. Hall/Kitchen