



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Black History Month

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

The Gathering

Prelude:

My Lord, What a Mornin'

Traditional Spiritual

Arr. by Mark Hayes

Soloist: Julie Hendersson

Piano: Abi Sanchez

Acknowledging the Territory

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinabeg 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:

God of the Bible
(Fresh as the Morning)

MV 28

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:

When We Are Tested

MV 65

Call to Worship:

Friends of God, welcome.

May the Spirit of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As we begin the season of Lent
make yourself at home
in the unfolding
presence of Love.

**It nestles,
nourishes,
and gives renewed strength
for the journey of faith.**

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

**God of love and mercy
we gather today from different places –
both of location and life experience.
Some of us arrive content,
others muddled and fractured,
still others somewhere in between.**

God of love and mercy,

Hold us in your grace.

God of love and mercy,
at the beginning of this Lenten season,
we pray for a willingness to be held
in all that we are.

**We come daring to believe
that in your embrace
joy and hope arises anew.**

In thanksgiving we pray,

Hold us in your grace.
In Christ's name, we pray,
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:

Joan

Hymn: *I Can Feel You Near Me God*

MV 48

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: **Matthew 4:1-11**

Anthem: *African Psalm* *Trad. Zambian Folk Song*
arr. Victor C. Johnson

Meditation: *Triple Temptation*
or
Time to Wander, Time to Ponder

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn: *To the Desert Jesus Came*

VU 113

Offertory Prayer:

**Creator of all seasons,
Held securely by your love,
we seek to be an offering of love to the world
and to have our spirits wing free to live again.
Receive the gifts of our hands,
and the desire of our hearts,
using each in your unfolding ways.
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:

O God, How We Have Wandered

VU 112

Commissioning:

Hidden in the deep mercy of God,
**we are further opened by the friendship of Christ
and enflamed with the encouragement of Spirit.**

Go into this new day and season
alive to ourselves and others,
and awake to the possibilities of Love.

Blessing:

Amen:

Great Amen (Mass of Creation)

by Marty Haugen

Postlude:

Juba

by R. Nathaniel Dett

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Brenda Fawkes, Bethel Lee, Wade Lifton, Donna Scorer, Thom M. Shuman, Donald Schmidt, Nancy Talbot, Susan Burt, "Lent 1," In: *Seasons of the Spirit: Congregational Life*, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Kelowna: Wood Lake, 2012-2013, p.p. 29-36.

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: **Rev. Grant Stuckless**
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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Today our Lay Reader is Iga Kurzydlo, Ushers are Jill MacLean and Joan Clow, and Coffee Hosts are Krista Schneider and Robert Sims. Thank you to the tech team, decorators, and all the people that make the life and work of the church possible.

***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: what uplifting "good news" stories have you seen/read recently in the media and how did this story make you feel?

There will be an online Lent Evening service on Wednesday, February 25th, from 7:00 – 7:30 pm. Get the zoom information from the office, or the upcoming events page of our website.

The Thursday Morning Discussion Group (Heretics) will discuss Part SEVEN, "The Sex Question" of the book: ***A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith*** by Brian McLaren. Contact the church office or any member of Heretics for a zoom invitation.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place after the service; lunch will be served in the lounge before the meeting begins.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 22 Worship Lunch Annual Meeting	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Sanctuary Lounge Sanctuary
Monday, February 23 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 24 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 pm – 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 25 Organ Tuning Active Artists Lenten Evening Service Voices Rock	10:45 am – 11:45 am 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Sanctuary Library Zoom Sanctuary
Thursday, February 26 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 27 Take Time to be Wholey	10:30 am – 11:30 am	C.E. Hall
Saturday, February 28 NMRA	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	C.E. Hall