



# WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Holy Humour Sunday  
April 12, 2026

## *The Gathering*

### **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:**

*Over My Head*

**MV 88**

### **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.

**Emmanubells:**

*Fanfare and Reflection*

*by Jason W. Krug*

## *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:** *Come Touch our Hearts*

**MV 12**

**Call to Worship:**

We gather to feast on the joy of new life.

**God has swallowed up death forever!**

We gather, liberated from the shroud of helplessness.

**God has swallowed up death forever!**

We gather, a people long expectant, awaiting restoration no more.

**God has swallowed up death forever!**

**Let us worship God!**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Loving God, glorious Creator, we praise and thank you and rejoice before on this day that you have made. Upon hearing your promises of salvation, we rejoice in what you are about; with Jerusalem upon hearing of her coming restoration, we shout for joy. Creator God, on this our Holy Sabbath we remember not only the cross, but the resurrection; and we sing of Christ's victory and praise you for bringing life out of death, hope out of despair, and laughter out of sorrow -- and granting them to us as part of our internal inheritance in you. We pray you, attend our praise and restore our hearts with your love, both now and evermore. 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: *Splat the Cat - The Rain is a Pain***

*based on the books by Rob Scotton. Cover art by Rob Scotton,*

*Text by Amy Hsu Lin, Interior Illustrations by Robert Eberz*

**Myrna**

**Hymn:** *Our God is a Great Big God*

*(Children leave for Sunday school)*

## *We Listen to God's Word*

**Scripture:** Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-6

**Anthem:** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* by Kendrick and Schrader

**Meditation:** **Laughing When it's Rough**

**Quiet Reflection and Prayer**

**Hymn:** *Give to Us Laughter* VU 624

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Most loving God - as you have given yourself to us in Christ Jesus, now let us give ourselves to you. We give you our bodies that they may be vessels for your Spirit; we give you our souls that they may be made pure by your grace; we give you our hearts that we may always love you and we give you our minds that they may always be full of your wisdom. Receive all that we offer and use it for your honour and glory. Amen**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Lord's Prayer (sung):** VU 960

**The Life and Work of our Community of Faith**

**Hymn:** *May the God of Hope* VU 424

**Commissioning:**

Go in peace  
and may God be in your head and in your understanding,  
may the Father be in your eyes and in your looking  
may the Spirit be in your mouth and in your speaking,  
and the Son in your heart and in your thinking,  
May the Trinity be in in your hands and in your working,  
And the Three in One be in your feet and in your daily walking,  
- both now and forevermore. Amen

**Blessing:**

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

**Postlude:** *Musical Moment* Op. 94 No. 3  
by Franz Schubert

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David Gambrell, “Second Sunday of Easter,” *In: Connections: Worship Companion*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022, p.p. 164.

Richard Fairchild, “Sermon and Liturgy for Laughter Sunday - Year A”, spirit-net.ca, *Spirit Networks*, 2002-2006.

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: **Rev. Grant Stuckless**  
Pastoral Care Provider: **Dr. Ron MacDonald**  
Music Director: **Ann McNamee**  
Pianist & Organist: **Abigail Sánchez Rojas**  
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**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:30 PM,**

*Today our Lay Reader is Camille den Boer, Ushers are Bob Gander and Bert Reveler, and the Coffee Host is Christine Hywarren. Thank you to the tech team, decorators, and all the people that make the life and work of the church possible.*

*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's discussion topic is Our conversation topic this week is Spring. Finish these sentences:

- 1) You know it's Spring when....
- 2) Spring makes me want to...
- 3) The best part of Spring is...

Do you think that people can have “spring fever”? If you could describe spring fever in just a few words, what would you say? Have you ever experienced spring fever?

### **March 2027 Pilgrimage trip to El Salvador**

Our neighbours in the East Central Region are making plans for a visit to our partners in El Salvador in March 2027. To learn about the plans for the trip, sign up for a Zoom call on May 5 at 7:00 pm. To get the zoom link and register for the call contact Rev Wanda Stride at [minister@trinitystandrews.ca](mailto:minister@trinitystandrews.ca). Or contact Phyllis MacRae at [pmjmacrae@gmail.com](mailto:pmjmacrae@gmail.com).

## ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, April 12</b> Worship Coffee and Conversation APC Meeting Kiwanis Music Festival	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am – 12:30 pm 2:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Library Sanctuary
<b>Monday, April 13</b> Kiwanis Music Festival Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation Book Club Kilborn Gardener's Meeting	8:00 am – 9:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Zoom Zoom C.E. Hall
<b>Tuesday, April 14</b> Tai Chi Let's Talk Tuesdays Victoria's Quilters Kiwanis Music Festival Coffee Social	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm 12:30 pm – 9:00 pm 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom C.E. Hall Sanctuary Three Sisters
<b>Wednesday, April 15</b> Kiwanis Music Festival Quilting Active Artists Finance Meeting Voices Rock Music	8:00 am – 7:30 pm 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 11:00 pm – 2:00 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall Library Zoom Sanctuary
<b>Thursday, April 16</b> Tai Chi Heretics Discussion Group Pastoral Care Meeting Kiwanis Music Festival Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:30 am 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Library Sanctuary Lounge C.E. Hall Sanctuary
<b>Friday, April 17</b> Kiwanis Music Festival Take Time to be Wholey	8:00 am – 9:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall
<b>Saturday, April 18</b> Kiwanis Music Festival Al-Anon Bookclub	8:00 am – 9:00 pm 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Sanctuary Library