



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026**

The Gathering

Acknowledging the Territory

How do our actions show respect and honour Indigenous people and the deep connection they have with this land?

As we begin our service, we reflect on the land where we are gathered. Land acknowledgements aren't like a prayer to start the service. They are an opportunity for all of us to reflect on how we have come to be here and on the people who were here for thousands of years before us. They are an opportunity for us to acknowledge with sincerity and respect, the relationship that exists between indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. As we worship here today, let us be conscious that we are worshiping on unceded territory. We open ourselves to continual learning and work towards a reciprocal relationship that grows from a place of respect and a desire for understanding.

Hymn:

Draw the Circle Wide

MV 145

Lighting of the Christ and Affirming Candles:

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ here with us today; a light which alleviates our fears and which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.

We light this Affirm candle to acknowledge that the light of the Divine shines in every person, each beautiful in their uniqueness.

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:

Bless the Lord, people of God.

We bless God's holy name.

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God's steadfast love stretches from earth to the heavens. It never ends.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer:

Merciful God, we come together with full hearts knowing that your compassion for us is from everlasting to everlasting. The gifts you have given us are too great to ever be repaid. The love you have for us is more than we can comprehend. As we come before you this day in worship, may we feel no fear but come with joy and praise, bowing before you as children and servants, filled with gratitude for your steadfast love. Bless this hour that you have gifted to us, in Christ's name. 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:

Val

Hymn:

I Am Walking a Path of Peace

MV 221

Verse 2 Hope & 3 Love

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: **Matthew 18:21-35**

Special Music: ***As the Deer*** *by Martin Nystrom*
arr. by Keith Christopher
Flute: Jeanine Hedge

Meditation: **To Forgive Really is Divine**

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn: ***When I Needed a Neighbour*** **VU 600**

Call to Offering:

Prayer of Dedication:

Gracious and Loving God, we are aware that we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to You. As we are trusting you, the God of life, who raised Jesus from the dead, we offer our whole lives to the Lord. Bless all that we offer this hour, this day and in all of our living. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer Sung: **VU 960**

The Life and Work of our Community of Faith

Hymn: ***What Can I Do?*** **191 MV**

Commissioning:

May all that is in you bless God.

May we follow in Christ's footsteps of mercy and compassion.

May the Holy Spirit guide you on your journey.

Forgiven, may we seek to forgive. Thanks be to God.

Blessing:

Amen: ***Go Now in Peace*** *by Besig and Price*

Postlude: ***Sicilienne*** *op. 78 by Gabriel Faure*
Flute: Jeanine Hedge
Piano: Abigail Sanchez

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Resources adapted for this service of worship:

David Gambrill, “Proper 19,” *In: Connections: Worship Companion (Year A, Volume 2)*
Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022, p.p. 139-145.

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: **Rev. Grant Stuckless**

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Office Hours: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday-Thursday

Today our Lay Reader is Jennifer Mogridge. Thank you to our ushers, coffee hosts, 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 Tuesday’s** conversation group on Zoom. This week’s question is For most of our lives, the United States has been viewed as Canada’s closest neighbour and ally. Has what is happening between our two countries today changed how you feel about the United States?

Take Time to be Wholey Exercise Classes resume Monday, September 14.

Grocery Cards will be available for purchase after the service next Sunday, September 20.

Emmanubells are a mixed-age group of handbell ringers. They rehearse weekly at 6 pm on Thursdays and play in church about once each month. A basic ability to read music is an asset, but no previous handbell experience is necessary as we will teach you. We have space for new ringers willing to commit to regular attendance at rehearsals. For more information, please contact Ann Frederking ViolaAnnF@gmail.com or 613-749-5815

The Thanksgiving Pie Market is open online and will run until October 9. In person orders can start anytime now. Once again, this year, Apple, Raspberry, Blueberry, Strawberry Rhubarb and Peach pies will be offered in two sizes: 9” for \$18 and 6” for \$8. The funds raised will contribute to our global partners in El Salvador and Zambia. Go to www.euconlinemarket.ca to order pies.



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 13 Worship Coffee and Conversation Let’s Stay Together	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Sanctuary C.E. Hall C.E. Hall & Garden
Monday, September 14 Pie Making Take Time to be Wholey Christian Meditation	9:00 am – 1:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Kitchen C.E. Hall Zoom
Tuesday, September 15 Tai Chi Let’s Talk Tuesdays EUC Quilting Victoria’s Quilters Coffee Social Council Meeting	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Lounge C.E. Hall Three Sisters Café C.E. Hall
Wednesday, September 16 Active Artists	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Library
Thursday, September 17 Heretics Pastoral Care Meeting Tai Chi Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	10:00 am – 11:30 am 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Zoom Library C.E. Hall Room 9/10 C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, September 18 Pie Making Take Time to be Wholey	9:00 am – 1:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am	Kitchen C.E. Hall
Saturday, September 19		
Sunday, September 20 Worship Coffee and Conversation Grocery Card Sales	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall C.E. Hall