



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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:

Over My Head

MV 88

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:

God of the Bible

MV 28

Call to Worship:

Today and every day let us praise God's name.

Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

Today we will think on your wondrous works.

Today we will proclaim your awesome deeds.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, your love for us is both a blessing and a challenge. May we be so filled with your love that it stretches us in this time of worship, opening us to new lengths and depths and new ways of reflecting your love to others. Encourage our spirits by your Spirit as we turn to you in praise and prayer. Inspire us to proclaim your greatness in word and deed, now in this hour of worship and in the days to come. 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:

What's Fair?

Ellen

Hymn:

What can I do? What can I bring?

MV 191

(Children leave for Sunday school)

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: **Matthew 20:1-16**

Anthem: ***What Brings Us Together*** *by Jay Althouse*

Meditation: ***God's Mysterious and Generous Grace***

Quiet Reflection and Prayer

Hymn: ***We Praise You, O God*** **VU 218**

Call to Offering:

Prayer of Dedication:

Gracious God, we hear the call to be more generous. We use our many ways to give you our thanks and praise through our gifts. In both word and deed, in our gifts of money and time, we offer our best to you. Bless our giving for the good of your church and the love of one another. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Creator, who is in heaven,
holy is your name,
Your realm is throughout the universe,
Your presence arrives
on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our food for our journey,
And forgive us when we harm another,
as we forgive someone who harms us.**

**And lead us not into torment,
but deliver us from evil:**

**For yours is the place, and the strength, and the peace that
sustains us,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Life and Work of our Community of Faith

Hymn: ***May God's Sheltering Wings*** **MV 214**

Commissioning:

We may depart from this place, but Christ is always with us.

Thanks be to God.

Amen: *Go Now in Peace* by Besig and Price
All are invited to sing the closing along with our choir.

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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Resources adapted for this service of worship:

David Gambrill, "Proper 20," In: *Connections: Worship Companion (Year A, Volume 2)*
Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022, p.p. 149-152.

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

Today our Lay Reader is Richard Johnston. 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.

We wish Norma McKnight a very happy belated birthday- she turned 107 on September 17!

Join **Let's Talk Tuesday's** conversation group on Zoom. This week's topic celebrates the first day of Fall. What aspects of the season do you enjoy? Do you have any fall memories that come back to you each year?

Grocery Cards will be available for purchase after the service today.

This Sunday, there is a **Food Bank Collection** for Russell Heights, donations can also be brought to the church Monday, September 21, from 2-3 pm.

This week the Thursday Morning Discussion Group (Heretics) will discuss the beatitude: **Blessed are the merciful**. Please join us. Contact the church office or any member of Heretics for a zoom invitation.

The first of our Bazaar Deli Workshops is taking place on Thursday, September 24th from 12:30 - 4:00 approximately. We are looking for 4-5 volunteers to help prepare chili. Sign up in the narthex. Contact Val Dowd for more information.

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.



Southeast Ottawa Cluster Working Group (Visioning Team)

Last spring, the Southeast Ottawa Cluster received a grant to do some discerning or visioning work together. The six churches in the cluster - Glebe-St. James, Emmanuel, Rideau Park, Riverside, Southminster, and Centretown United - are trying to address the challenges identified in "Towards 2035", a report about the future of God's call to the United Church.

The six churches have hired a facilitator, Rev. Brian Copeland, to help us design a process to engage in this creative thinking. A working group of two members from each church will participate in meetings and workshops during the fall and winter to help discern our way forward as churches living in these changing times. The representatives of each congregation will update their congregations on progress.

Phyllis MacRae and Val Lines will represent Emmanuel in the working group. We will also need members from each congregation to take part in leadership within the congregation. This will involve initiating discussions and activities within Emmanuel to talk about how we want our future to unfold. Look forward to more updates as the discussions progress.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 20 Worship Coffee and Conversation	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall
Monday, September 21 Pie Making Take Time to be Wholey Food Bank Collection Christie Lake Kids Christian Meditation	9:00 am – 1:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Kitchen C.E. Hall Narthex C.E. Hall/Kitchen Zoom
Tuesday, September 22 Tai Chi Let’s Talk Tuesdays EUC Quilting Coffee Social Christie Lake Kids	10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 11:00 am 10:00 am – 3:00 pm 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm	C.E. Hall Zoom Lounge Three Sisters Café C.E. Hall/Kitchen
Wednesday, September 23 Blood Drive Active Artists Riverboys	9:30 am – 4:30 pm 11:00 am – 2:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Sanctuary Library C.E. Hall
Thursday, September 24 Heretics Tai Chi Deli Workshop Emmanubells Al Anon Choir	10:00 am – 11:30 am 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Zoom C.E. Hall Kitchen Room 9/10 C.E. Hall Sanctuary
Friday, September 25 Pie Making Take Time to be Wholey Rainbow Hub	9:00 am – 1:00 pm 10:30 am – 11:30 am 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Kitchen C.E. Hall C.E. Hall/Kitchen
Saturday, September 26 Handbell Workshop Al-Anon Book Club	10:00 am – 5:00 pm 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	C.E. Hall/Sanctuary Library
Sunday, September 27 Worship Coffee and Conversation	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary C.E. Hall