

December 2020

Emmanuel Anglican Church

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve,
December 24th

5:00pm Holy Eucharist
and Candlelighting

7:00pm Holy Eucharist
and Candlelighting *

(This service will also be
Livestream for you to
participate from home)



**Take time in this busy season
to remember the reason for the season**

**—
the birth of Jesus**

Catherine Pulsifer

“Let us now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” Luke 2: 15

This year has been one for the memory books. With lockdowns, hand sanitizing and washing, mask wearing, and keeping our distance from most others, we have become accustomed to the routine. In this way we are not just keeping ourselves healthy we are trying our best to keep others safe. Sadly, during this time life goes on. We have had to adjust to meeting together by social media. Celebrations, like graduations, birthday parties, weddings and reunions were either postponed or scaled down to include much smaller numbers.

Sadly all those going through those life passages that needs so many others by their sides also had to endure alone. Our parish family lost members we have not yet been able to officially celebrate. Others members have had other life threatening illnesses, unable to receive visits by family or pastoral members. Mental illness has taken a foothold on those unable to live alone, or paralyzed by fear.

Yes, all in all, it is a year that will stick with us for a while.

This Christmas will be yet one more addition to the unusual of the year. A limit of people or Christmas carol singing, and worshipping online may be the only way we will recognize this year's joyous season.

This puts in mind many of those other years of “unusual” Christmas times. Family members celebrated apart and in fear when loved ones served in wars or police actions, often with no end in sight.

All this is not unlike the message we receive in our all too familiar Christmas story, found in Luke. Mary and Joseph were forced to drop everything, and travel on a long journey alone, at great risk. Journeys were dangerous at any time, let alone being rushed into a road trip. There was a limited supply of food and water. Yet it was essential that they take that journey, or face the wrath of Imperial authorities, with more serious implications – jail, isolation, or death.

It was on this rather perilous journey that Jesus came into their lives. Despite the darkness of the times, the birth of the Christ child gave light and hope that someday, all will be well. In their own time of darkness, God was there to show them a path of light and life. It didn't matter how unsafe, frightening or chaotic life got, because they knew God was with them.

In our own time of darkness, we, too, are reassured of God's life-giving light. In the hours of silence or confusion or loneliness, we know we are never alone. Our family members who suffer either mildly or deeply are protected. They are loved and guided by us and by the Christ child.

In this Christmas season, may you find the peace of God, the hope of life's journeys, and the true light of Christ that shines deep down in all of us.

And may your celebrations, as different and as unusual as they will seem, be joyous and memorable.

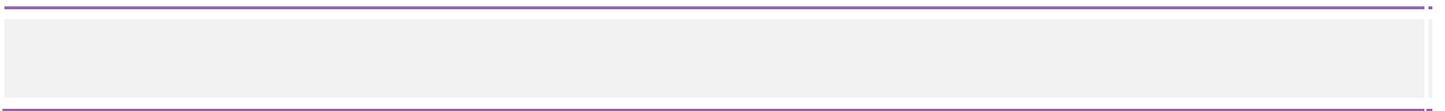
Merry Christmas
Reverend Cathy



Worship at Emmanuel Anglican Church

This year, God willing, we will celebrate in-person worship!
Please join us Christmas Eve at:

- 5:00 Holy Eucharist and Candlelighting
- 7:00 Holy Eucharist and Candlelighting * (This service will also be Livestream for you to participate from home)



Because our service spaces are limited (due to physical distancing and restrictions of numbers), please call or email the church office to register your attendance. This will be on a first come basis.

- Phone: 613-623-2554
- Email: emmanuel_office@bellnet.ca

Also, if you wish to view the service via livestream, please contact us so we may send you a link to our zoom service.

We hope you will be able to join us!

A Carolling We will Go!

We have volunteers who will be out carolling on Thursday December 10 and Saturday December 12. We hope to visit shut-ins and those on our pastoral care list.

If you would like us to include someone in a visit, please contact the church office.
613-623-2554.

From the Wardens

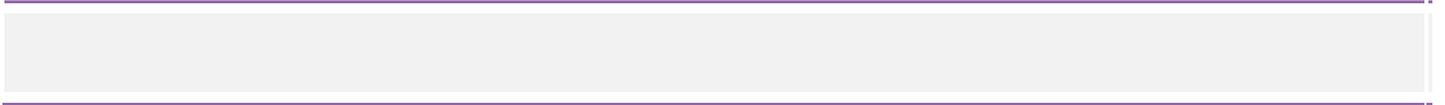
A Message from the Wardens

We hope this message finds you, your family and friends safe and well.

While the Covid -19 pandemic is impacting our daily routines with protocols of masking, practising social distancing and self-isolation, it is comforting to know that in times like this, amid the uncertainties, there is strength and hope that we will get through this together.

Sunday services resumed at Emmanuel in September with constraints and although services are different from what we are accustomed to, rest assured that we are taking every precaution to protect those who attend.

We are now recording our Sunday services and posting them to YouTube. Immediately following the service, the link will be sent to all those for whom we have email addresses, by 11:30 am. If you are not on our list and wish to be included please send your email address to emmanuel_office@bellnet.ca If you do not have email but have access to a smart phone, computer or other electronic device through a family member you can still view the recordings on YouTube by searching for 'Emmanuel Anglican Arnprior videos'. Nieces, nephews and grandchildren are wizards at this.



We are thankful that we can enjoy a service of the word or a Eucharist together. Even though we cannot shake a hand or give a friendly hug it is comforting to share in that “community”. Understandably many are not comfortable coming to church because of health or being at most risk of vulnerability to the virus. To these people a simple phone call to say hi, how are you could bring a smile on a lonely day. Some of you have already been doing this and that is so wonderful.

Fear and anxiety have taken a toll on people’s mental health. As our Primate Linda Nicholls quoted” the light on the darkest days is our shared faith in Jesus Christ, and our practice of prayer brings us the gift of stability”. She tells us that in this sea of uncertainty we are searching for a rock to stand on; we all have that rock, it is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Thank you to all who generously donated to help support the Food Bank, Hospice Renfrew, Neighbourlink fountain and the Legion, answering Jesus’ call to love and support those in need.

Daily life at Emmanuel is somewhat subdued. Fundraising activities have been cancelled and the only income generated from the use of the hall is through private music lessons given one day a week. The judo club has not yet returned.

Fundraising as it has traditionally been done at Emmanuel is no longer sustainable.

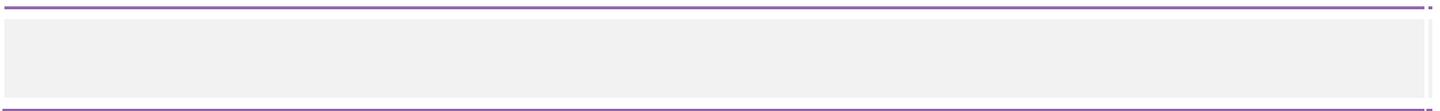
We would welcome new, creative ideas on how to do fundraising in the future.

If you have knowledge of how to set up fundraising events virtually, or have suggestions we could certainly use your expertise. Fundraising is a team effort.

Going forward we face challenges returning to the way we were, not the least of which is financial. We are thankful to those who during this time made the effort to **drop their offerings in the office mail chute** and those who continued to make pre-authorized remittances (PAR).

Thank you to Cec Goold for managing all that is required for property management and the Emmanuel Men’s group for the weekly cleaning of the church as mandated by our Diocese. Thank you to Geoff Booth our treasurer, to members of the altar guild, the counters, readers and greeters, members of Parish council and synod, Dick Hunter our pianist, and as always to our Rector Cathy for her support.

Regrettably, Paula Wheeler, our office administrator and envelope secretary, will be leaving us for a full time position. We wish her the very best in her new endeavour. She is leaving some very big shoes to fill. An ad for the position will be posted into the local paper.



As we enter into Advent, preparing for the birth of Christ Jesus, God willing, we pray that Emmanuel's doors will still be open for Christmas Eve services. Though different from other years' traditions we can celebrate his birth, the love and hope he gifted to us all.

In closing, although Christmas will be very different for us all this year, we send you our warmest wishes to you and your family. May love, peace and joy surround you during the holiday season and all year through.

The Wardens

