

The Emmanuel Epistle

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*Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm
Sunday Worship Services 8:15 am & 10 am Tuesday Eucharist 11 am Wednesday Eucharist 7 am*

The Spiritual Practice of Waiting

I love the liturgical calendar, the repeating parade of days and seasons of the church year. Yes, it is repetitive, but each year that I experience one of those days or seasons again, I learn something new about the journey of faith and about living life on this holy path. What I have come to understand is that this practice of reliving the seasons is all about learning to live them in real life. There are seasons when we learn to live the times of joy in life. Christmas and Easter teach us that. There are the wildernesses of life, times when we feel spiritually dry, when we feel we are lost and wandering aimlessly. These are the Lents of life. And there are some days that teach us about grief. Good Friday, as painful as it is, teaches us much about the process of grief. And there are seasons that teach us about being in the liminal space between loss and new life. Those are the Holy Saturdays of our lives. There are saints' days that teach about sacrificial love and about laying down one's life for others. Now we find ourselves in the season in which we learn to wait, to wait for what we dream of and what we long for. We learn not to give up hope and to continue believing that our dreams will become a reality, even when there is very little evidence of it.

Todd Williamson in an article in Loyola Press, offers this insight: one of the lessons Advent can teach us about waiting is that there are two ways to wait. First there is waiting in dread. Think of the way we often wait in the line at the post office or the grocery store, he says. We keep looking at our watch. We are irritable and impatient. People are not speaking to one another. No one is enjoying this. We just want it to be over. We think the worst. Just wait. They'll run out of stamps right when I get to the front of the line. Waiting in dread. But there is another way of waiting, waiting in excitement. Think about the times you have waited in line to get on Space Mountain, or to buy tickets for the Dodger playoffs. Think of getting to Best Buy at the scrape of dawn to line up for the latest electronic gadget. People waiting there are excited, talking to each other, discussing how cool the updates to Space Mountain are, what the Dodgers' chances are to win it all, or what the new iPhone can do. And think of the time when we are waiting for the birth of a child, waiting to kiss the bottoms of those beautiful baby feet.

This is the kind of waiting we learn about in Advent. We learn how to live through the times of waiting that are inevitable in every journey of faith. In Advent we experience waiting in joy, in

hope, anticipating a wonderful event, the feast of Christmas. We wait for the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, and always, we wait eagerly for the return of Christ in glory at the end of time, when God will be all in all. Advent teaches us to be people of hope, people who know that whatever we are waiting for in life, God has our very best interests at heart and chooses always to be in the midst of our experience. May this Advent season teach all of us how to live every day of our lives as people of hope and joy.

With much love,
Mo. Lyn+

Mo. Lyn's Anglican Corner

What is Advent?

Advent is the season of the church year that precedes Christmas. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The word Advent means "coming" and refers to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. It is a season of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. The liturgical color that is used is purple. The season focuses on three things...the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas, the coming of Christ in our hearts in new ways, and the return of Christ at the end of time. The season says in effect that Christ has come, He is still coming, and He will come again.

Emmanuel Preschool

Dear Emmanuel friends,

It's hard to believe that this will be my last Epistle article! After almost 22 years (and 40 years in Early Childhood Education), I'm retiring to make use of my Master's degree in Divinity as a Chaplain at St Jude hospital. I will still be here on Sundays and probably one morning a week until Lisa gets up to speed on all the regulations but I won't be here every day! For now I plan to continue to help with Trunk or Treat and other similar events that I took on both in my professional capacity and as an Emmanuelite. I thank you all for your amazing support of me personally and of the Preschool all these years. I pray you will continue to see the Preschool as an outreach to our community and Emmanuel as a resource and support to these young families.

I've had a lot of fun adventures as your preschool director -- building the playground, giving workshops all over the country with Fr Rob and Mo Lyn, creating events like Trunk or Treat and Green Day, remodeling various areas, helping to make a CD with Fr Rob and designing the cover with Alan Selmanaj 's support and much more. I learned a lot and enjoyed every minute! I pray you'll continue to support Lisa in the same way and that you'll help her share Emmanuel with these young families.

With Gratitude and Love,
Nancy

P.S. Don't forget the Santa Breakfast -- December 2, 9am to 11 am.



A Few Words from Your Treasurer

Through the end of October, our Operating Fund income is down about \$36,000 from where it was at the same point last year. As of the end of October our year to date Operating Fund deficit is -\$50,002.83. On the positive side, our Operating Fund expenses year to date are about \$9,400 under budget.

For the month of October the Operating Fund was \$3,422.10 in the red.

Giving to General Outreach is running at about 30% of what we budgeted and is down over 40% from what it was through October of last year.

December will tell the story. Please join me in praying that God's abundance will be poured out on all of us and that Emmanuel's financial needs will be met.

Blessings,
Dave Dunlap, Treasurer



Parish Profile Update

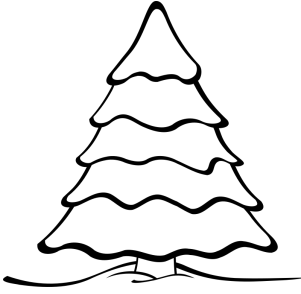
We're well along in the process of compiling the results of the Emmanuel Surveys and should have all 105 surveys transcribed into Excel by early December. Once the survey data are all in Excel then we'll immediately begin turning that data into some charts and graphics that will be used in our Profile.

Some of us on the Profile Committee are reviewing each of the 55 videos that Gene Cantwell took during Story Day 1 and Story Day 2 and extracting the salient thoughts so we can integrate them into our Parish Profile.

We're still on track to have the Parish Profile completed in time for our Annual Meeting next January.

If you have any questions for the Profile Committee please contact Nancy or Dave.

Blessings,
Dave Dunlap, Profile Committee Co-chair
Nancy Kent, Profile Committee Co-chair



Outreach News

Please consider a financial gift to Emmanuel's General Outreach Fund as part of your Christmas giving plans. As of October 31st, only \$1,087 has been contributed to General Outreach and the Fund balance is only \$2,057.

Earlier this year the Outreach Committee awarded two grants from General Outreach – one for \$1,000 to L'Arche Wavecrest to support their capital campaign, and one for \$750 to the Emmanuel Preschool to help support their marketing efforts.

My prayer is that we can raise \$2,500 for General Outreach in December. Your generosity will allow Emmanuel to continue to support the ministries that are close to our hearts.

Blessings,
Dave Dunlap, Outreach Coordinator

Las Posadas

Sunday, December 10 at 6 pm

This Advent celebration that originated in Mexico over 500 years ago symbolizes Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay where the Christ child could be born.

Las Posadas is a treasured part of our traditional preparations for Christmas here at Emmanuel. We begin the celebration by walking in a candlelight procession around the church campus, singing songs while stopping at the "inns" located in various rooms. As we travel from "inn" to "inn," we encounter "grumpy" innkeepers who refuse to let us in.

At the final "inn," we are warmly welcomed by friendly innkeepers and invited in for a feast of tamales and other goodies, and a piñata for the children.

Please let us know if you will be joining us so we can make sure we'll have enough tamales. You can call the church at (714) 879-8070 and leave a message with your name and how many are coming, or you can email that information to us at LasPosadasRSVP@EmmanuelFullerton.org.

Christmas Events and Services

Emmanuel will hold the Greening of the Church and Soup Supper on December 17 at 5 pm and then we will have our wonderful Christmas services on December 24 and 25: our Family Christmas Eve Service with a birthday cake for Jesus at 5 pm and our music-filled Candlelight Service at 10 pm, with the choir. On Christmas Day, we will have one service in the morning at 10 am. Please join us for one, two, or all our services. Joy to the World!

The Growing Connection

December 2017

Today, November 14, as I write these words I am still thinking about Mother Lyn's sermon last Sunday. She talked about putting 'Oil in Our Lamp' as a way and means of keeping our personal relationship with our Lord alive and well. (My interpretation.) She gave us a list of resources to help us put oil in our lamp. Spending time in a garden has, for most of my life, been my resource for putting oil in my lamp.

In the early days of our garden development we spent an extended period of time in choosing a name for our garden. Many offerings were considered. The name needed to express the idea of a garden as well as who we, as the Emmanuel Family, are.

In the end we chose Emmanuel Community Demonstration Garden: A Place to Grow. Stated another way: A Place to Put Oil in Your Lamp.

Over the years whenever I was stressed, tired, overworked, or had a big decision to make I would find myself pulled to a garden. It would not take long and soon I was feeling better and had a clearer picture of where I was and what I need to do. I didn't know it then, but I was Putting Oil in My Lamp.

I invite you to come to our garden – the garden that belongs to you, me, and to God – and find Oil for Your Lamp.

- Come to find the peace that prayer brings as you sit in prayer in the St. Francis Garden.
- Come and walk the labyrinth in meditation.
- Come sit among the roses on the gliding bench as you pray at the Peace Pole for peace and comfort for the world.
- Come to marvel at nature – how does a seed know what it is to become?
- Relax and marvel at the sweeping, swirling, fluttering, and gliding of the birds, bees and butterflies.
- Make friends with one, or more, of our lizards.
- Wonder at how plants grow so fast, and flowers bloom so beautifully.
- Taste the freshness of a blueberry, or blackberry, or raspberry, or any of our other fruits.
- Marvel at God's handiwork as you gaze on a pomegranate, or an artichoke, or taste a vine-ripened tomato.
- Share with our Emmanuel Community in caring for our vineyard and producing wine.
- And if you sit very still, you may get to enjoy the antics of our resident squirrel.

In other words, come to our (your) garden to put Oil in Your Lamp.

Blessings,
Lorra

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 8:00 PM Church on the Rock	2 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 9:00 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
3 Virtual Labyrinth w/Adv. reserv. 8:15 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Church on the Rock	4 5:00 AM Church on the Rock	5 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 10:00 AM Prayer/Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 1:00 PM Catechesis 3-6 y.o. 3:30 PM Girl Scouts troop 1999 4:00 PM Catechesis 6-12y.o 6:30 PM ELNO 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous	6 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 7:00 AM Eucharist 7:00 PM Taize Service	7 5:00 AM Church on the Rock	8 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 6:30 PM Emmanuel Book Club 8:00 PM Church on the Rock	9 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 8:30 AM Preschool Santa Breakfast 9:00 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
10 8:15 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Church on the Rock 6:00 PM Las Posadas 6:00 PM Lomheim Home group	11 5:00 AM Church on the Rock	12 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 10:00 AM Prayer/Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 1:00 PM Catechesis 3-6 y.o. 4:00 PM Catechesis 6-12y.o 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous	13 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 7:00 AM Eucharist 7:00 PM Grouping	14 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 6:30 PM Early Birds	15 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 8:00 PM Church on the Rock	16 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 8:30 AM "Bless Day" 9:00 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Plant Sale 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
17 Virtual Labyrinth w/Adv. reserv. 8:15 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Church on the Rock 5:00 PM Greening of the Church	18 5:00 AM Church on the Rock	19 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 10:00 AM Prayer/Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 1:00 PM Catechesis 3-6 y.o. 3:30 PM Girl Scouts troop 1999 4:00 PM Catechesis 6-12y.o 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous	20 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 7:00 AM Eucharist 7:00 PM Finance 7:30 PM Vestry	21 5:00 AM Church on the Rock	22 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 6:30 PM Movie night 8:00 PM Church on the Rock	23 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 9:00 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
24 9:00 AM Eucharist 12:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Church on the Rock 5:00 PM Family Service 10:00 PM Candlelight Service with Choir	25 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 10:00 AM Eucharist	26 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 10:00 AM Prayer/Study 11:00 AM Eucharist 1:00 PM Catechesis 3-6 y.o. 4:00 PM Catechesis 6-12y.o 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous	27 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 7:00 AM Eucharist 7:00 PM Visibility Committee	28 5:00 AM Church on the Rock	29 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 8:00 PM Church on the Rock	30 5:00 AM Church on the Rock 9:00 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 4:00 PM Nicotine Anonymous
31 9:00 AM Eucharist 1:00 PM Church on the Rock						

This Month's Happenings

In addition to the usual services, here are more opportunities to gather together:

Tuesdays	Prayer Group, Bible Study, Eucharist	10am
Wednesdays	Eucharist and breakfast	7am
Saturdays	T-Party (Men's Bible Study)	9 am
12/2	Santa Breakfast (Preschool)	9-11 am
12/5	Visibility Committee	7 pm
12/6	Taizé	7 pm
12/8	Emmanuel Book Club	6:30 pm
12/10	Las Posadas	6 pm
12/14	Early Birds	6:30 pm
12/16	Emmanuel Community Garden Plant Sale	9-12
12/17	Greening of the Church/Soup Supper	5 pm
12/22	Movie Night	6:30 pm
12/24	Eucharist – One Service	9 am
12/24	Family Christmas Eve Service	5 pm
12/24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service w/Choir	10 pm
12/25	Christmas Day Service	10 am
12/31	Eucharist – One Service	9 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

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