

# The Emmanuel Epistle

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Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
1145 Valencia Mesa Dr.  
Fullerton, CA 92833

(714) 879-8070

Fax (714) 879-8680

[www.emmanuelfullerton.org](http://www.emmanuelfullerton.org)

Rector: Fr. Rob Bethancourt

Associate: Mo. Lyn Crow

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm

Sunday Worship Services 8:15 am & 10 am

Tuesday Eucharist 11 am

Wednesday Eucharist 7 am

## ***Blame or Blessing?***

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future with hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11*

Recently I came across an interesting reconstruction of the word “Blame”. The author explained that to choose to be a part of the dynamic of blaming was to b(e) lame. It made me smile—both with amusement and recognition. When I blame someone else for my situation, I shoot myself in the foot. I take away any chance that the situation can change, because I have abandoned my own responsibility and have given it to something or someone else. Blame can take some overt and also subtler forms of abdication. “Of course I can’t have a happy life. Look at the family I grew up in!” or “You can’t expect me to be healthy with the kind of genes I was given!” or “If only I had a more supportive spouse, maybe my self-esteem would be better.” All of these tactics make excuses for the reason why we haven’t taken steps to change what is actually in our power to change.

The good news is that God is greater than our past, greater than any evil done to us, greater than any limiting circumstances, greater than our own failures. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the demonstration that the love of God is able to overcome every potential component of the blame game. We no longer need to spend our energy in the fruitless attempt to find blame. Instead we can turn to the One who loves us and is able to craft a future with hope. With God, all things are possible. Through surrendering the fabric of our lives to the Holy One, God is able to weave even the poorest choices of ourselves and others into a tapestry of beauty. In so doing, we move from stories that are “so lame” to experiences that are “so God!”

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Rob

## **Mo. Lyn's Anglican Corner**

### ***Getting More out of a Sermon***

Just a few suggestions that may help you to get more out of a sermon:

1. Notice when and why you react to what you are hearing and what emotions you experience,
2. Take notes. Yes, it is okay to bring a notepad with you and jot down the things that are new ideas to you, that confuse you or sound complicated to you, words you do not know the meaning of, or things that bother you.
3. Listen for anything that sounds like the good news to you and jot that down. You are likely to hear the good news especially when the name of Jesus is mentioned. It may result in a physical lightness in you as though you have set down a great burden. It may also result in tears or a feeling of joy. This is normal!
4. End the sermon by saying "Amen!" Since preaching is mainly the work of the Holy Spirit, honor it by sealing the moment with the sacred word "Amen", which means "It is most certainly true."
5. If you've taken notes, read through them later that day or the next. If you have questions or need clarification, don't hesitate to email or call the person who preached. Consider sharing what you have learned or are thinking about with others, either at home or in a small group at church.

### ***Emmanuel Preschool***

Dear Emmanuel Friends,

I can't believe the school year is almost over! We had a wonderful year and I'm grateful for so many things! Here are a few off the top of my head:

- All of you for your prayers, financial gifts, and encouragement
- Beautiful new dividers and for the hands that made them and the generous hearts that funded them
- New families and kids
- Fun events and activities such as paint night, trunk or treat, picnics and many more!
- The preschool garden
- New signs
- The preschool staff especially during my recovery from the auto accident
- Fr Rob & Mo Lyn and the way they work with the kids
- 

That's a lot to be thankful for, as you can see, so thank you, Jesus. We are blessed. Also please watch for some fun ways to support the preschool this summer such as restaurant night, ice cream social and maybe another paint night! Summer Family Camp/VBS is June 12-16. So sign up to come or sign up to be a part of the team!

And here are a few things we could use for summer science camp:

- Jar lids

- Baby food or mason jars
- Beakers
- Baking soda
- A box of borax
- A gallon of vinegar
- Packages of Mentos
- 2 liter bottles of diet soda
- Small gift boxes
- Gallons off 100% juice
- Boxes of crackers

Thank you all for loving and supporting our kids and for helping take Emmanuel to our community!

With Gratitude,  
Nancy Shively  
Preschool Director

### ***A Few Words from Your Treasurer***

Through the end of April, our Operating Fund income is up about \$800 but that's about \$17,000 less than what we have budgeted. Expenses for that same period are less than 1% over budget. As of the end of April our Operating Fund deficit is -\$17,077.04, about \$800 more than it was last year at the same point in time.

Giving to General Outreach is running at about 30% of what we budgeted. Giving to Million Meals had greatly exceeded our expectations (over \$8,600), thanks in large part to a bequest from Lew Lardie who started the Million Meals program at Emmanuel over 20 years ago.

We've had several unanticipated expenses so far this year. The front lawn renovation project (tree stump removal, dethatching, over-seeding, sprinkler line repairs, relocation of the sprinkler controllers to outside where our landscape contractor can access them, etc.) has cost us around \$3,400. This was paid from our Capital Fund. The amplifier for the sound system in the sanctuary finally failed after about 20 years and had to be replaced in May at a cost of about \$750. This was considered an Operating expense.

If you would like to help us with a donation to help offset either of these two specific expenses please make a note of it on your check or contribution envelope and I'll make sure the funds are properly allocated.

Summer is always a challenging time for Emmanuel financially. Attendance usually drops because people are on vacation and giving tends to go down, but our expenses actually go up, primarily electricity for the A/C and water for our grounds and the Community Garden.

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

***The Garden Connection***  
***June 2017***

There is excitement in the garden. We are about to release our first, the 2016, Vintage from the Vineyard. And you are invited to join us for the event.

## **Celebrating Our First Vintage**

**You are invited to join us as we celebrate  
the distribution of the First Vintage  
from our vineyard.**

**We will taste the wine, share cheese and crackers  
and have the opportunity to join the  
Vintner's Guild.**

**Sunday, June 11, 2017  
4:00 PM  
Under the Pergola**

We have worked hard to get to this point and we hope that you will all join us in the celebration. Come for the fun, and to support the garden, even if you do not drink wine.

Aside from the excitement of planning of our 1<sup>st</sup> Vintage release party, other things are happening in the garden. We have begun to harvest our first vegetable of the season and have opened the Garden Market on Sunday mornings. Gordon's Broad Beans (Fava Beans to us Americans) are producing abundantly. We also have onions and leeks; these should be available for the next couple of months. We had a good crop of beets and more on their way.

In the past our gardeners have not had much success with growing peas (the kind you have to shell). This spring I had some old seeds and an open space so I put in all of the seeds. About four plants came up and they did reasonably well -- enough so that Gordon got tired of shelling them!

Our blackberry, boysenberry and raspberry vines are doing very well. This week we will put netting over the blueberry plants -- we have a very good crop. We have quarter size plums and lots of apples on the tree in the Children's Garden. And Warren has harvested 3 very good cabbages. We have small green tomatoes on most of the plants. None have ripened yet, but it won't be long. I can't wait for that first bright red tomato, warm from the sun.

Hope to see you all in the garden for the unveiling of our first vintage on June 11!

Happy Growing --  
Gordon and Lorra

## Enjoy the Convenience of eGiving

Emmanuel wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving (eGiving) as a way to make a one-time gift, or to automate your regular weekly or monthly offering.

Electronic giving offers convenience and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Credit & Debit Card Giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

You can go to [www.emmanuelfullerton.org/e-giving](http://www.emmanuelfullerton.org/e-giving) at any time to make a one-time donation or to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider eGiving. Authorization forms and additional information are also available from the church office.

Please contact our Treasurer, Dave Dunlap if you have any questions about eGiving.

### ***June Book Club – June 9 at 6:30 in Havermale Hall – POTLUCK!***

Our book for June is *The First Love Story* by Bruce Feiler

“From the New York Times bestselling author of *Walking the Bible* and *Abraham* comes a revelatory journey across four continents and four thousand years exploring how Adam and Eve introduced the idea of love into the world, and how they continue to shape our deepest feelings about relationships, togetherness, and social cohesion.”

### ***Habitat for Humanity***

Emmanuel has worked with Habitat for Humanity for a few years now, and we would like all Emmanuelites to know about the opportunities to volunteer. Our Habitat liaison is Marti Edmonds ([muthrofmany@yahoo.com](mailto:muthrofmany@yahoo.com) 607.760.4015) so please get in touch with her if you have any questions. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

1. If you'd like to volunteer for a day of construction, please sign up on VolunteerHub or contact Marti.

#### **Santa Ana (W. McFadden) Build Site**

*Wednesdays through Saturdays from 7:30 am-3:30 pm*

Volunteer your time as we construct five homes in Santa Ana.

2. **Women Build OC Program**

*Meetings held the second Thursday of every month from 5:30-7 pm*

Women Build recruits, educates and inspires women to build and advocate for simple and affordable housing in their communities. Women Build is not about excluding men but about empowering women so they can learn construction skills in a more supportive environment.

If you'd like to join the Women Build program, email [WomenBuild@HabitatOC.org](mailto:WomenBuild@HabitatOC.org).

## JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5 AM Church on the Rock	2 Silent Retreat 5 AM Church on the Rock 8 PM Church on the Rock	3 Silent Retreat 5 AM Church on the Rock 9 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 4 PM <a href="#">Nicotine Anonymous</a>
4 Pentecost Silent Retreat 8:15 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 1 PM Church on the Rock	5 5 AM Church on the Rock 6:30 PM Job and Career Dev.	6 5 AM Church on the Rock 10 AM Prayer/Study 11 AM Eucharist 3:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM ELNO 7 PM Overeaters	7 5 AM Church on the Rock 7 AM Eucharist 7 PM Taizé	8 5 AM Church on the Rock 4 PM CGS Retreat 6:30 PM Early Birds	9 5 AM Church on the Rock 9 AM CGS Retreat 1 PM CGS Retreat 6:30 PM Emmanuel Book Club 8 PM Church on the Rock	10 5 AM Church on the Rock 9 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 9 AM CGS Retreat 4 PM <a href="#">Nicotine Anonymous</a>
11 8:15 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 1 PM Church on the Rock 6 PM Lomheim Home group	12 5 AM Church on the Rock 6 PM Emmanuel Summer Camp/VBS	13 5 AM Church on the Rock 10 AM Prayer/Study 11 AM Eucharist 3:30 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Emmanuel SummerCamp/	14 5 AM Church on the Rock 7 AM Eucharist 6 PM Emmanuel Summer Camp/VBS	15 5 AM Church on the Rock 6 PM Emmanuel Summer Camp/VBS	16 5 AM Church on the Rock 6 PM Emmanuel Summer Camp/VBS 8 PM Church on the Rock	17 5 AM Church on the Rock 8:30 AM "Bless Day" 9 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 9 AM Plant Sale 4 PM <a href="#">Nicotine Anonymous</a>
18 8:15 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 1 PM Church on the Rock	19 5 AM Church on the Rock 6:30 PM Job and Career Dev.	20 5 AM Church on the Rock 10 AM Prayer/Study 11 AM Eucharist 7 PM Overeaters Anonymous	21 5 AM Church on the Rock 7 AM Eucharist 7 PM Finance 7:30 PM Vestry	22 5 AM Church on the Rock	23 5 AM Church on the Rock 6:30 PM Movie night 8 PM Church on the Rock	24 5 AM Church on the Rock 9 AM "T-Party" Men's Bible Study 4 PM <a href="#">Nicotine Anonymous</a>
25 8:15 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 1 PM Church on the Rock	26 Holiday - Office Closed 5 AM Church on the Rock	27 5 AM Church on the Rock 10 AM Prayer/Study 11 AM Eucharist 3:30 PM Girl Scouts	28 5 AM Church on the Rock 7 AM Eucharist 7 PM Visibility Committee	29 5 AM Church on the Rock	30 5 AM Church on the Rock  8PM 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	10 am
Wednesdays	Eucharist, breakfast at Black Bear Diner	7 am
Saturdays	T-Party (Men's Bible Study)	9 am
6/12-6/16	Emmanuel Summer Camp/VBS	6 pm
6/6	ELNO (Women's Group)	6:30 pm
6/7	Taizé	7 pm
6/8	Early Birds	6:30 pm
6/9	Emmanuel Book Club	6:30 pm
6/28	Visibility Committee	7 pm
6/23	Movie Night	6:30 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
1145 W. Valencia Mesa  
Fullerton, CA 92833  
(714) 879-8070

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