



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

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December 2020

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Sunday Worship Service 10 am on Zoom*

The Light of Christ

People are putting up Christmas lights already and Thanksgiving is still a week away. We are so hungry for light. Not just twinkling Christmas lights, but spiritual light. Lucky for us we are a liturgical church and we get to light the Advent candles every Sunday until Christmas. We get to contemplate, prepare for, and welcome in the Christ of Light as it is born into the world. This light is unlike any other light. It never goes out. It is consistent, steady and true. Sometimes it's hard to find, or see, or sense. Sometimes life can be so painful that we can imagine it not existing at all, ever. But walking in this light, as we practice doing every day as Christians, we have the experience that the Light of Christ is here, among us. It exists, then, now and always. Sometimes we have to have this internal dialogue with the part of ourselves that is scared it isn't going to come back or never existed all. It's Christ's light in us that speaks to our small, scared, hurt selves saying, "I'm here. I have always been here. I am here now and I will be here tomorrow." When that happens, if we can get a fingernail under that little crack in our sadness, pain, grief or fear, open a space, even a teeny, tiny space, to allow the voice to speak and ourselves to hear, we are saved, again. The light of Christ has penetrated our hearts again and we can recognize that which is not seen with the eyes, the saving grace of Christ. Advent is the time in our church calendar set aside for the intentional practice of embracing the Light, excavating the Light within ourselves and allowing the breaking open of our hearts so that Light can pour out of us into the world!

We need to walk in the light of Christ to spread the light of Christ. John 8:12 says, "Jesus once again addressed them: 'I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in (The Message).'" and in Matthew 5:16 Jesus says, "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

God is not a secret to be kept (The Message).” During the Advent into Christmas season, don’t keep the Light of Love a secret. Relish this Light within in you then go spread it around!

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Rev. Holly



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

Our Operating Fund had net income in October of \$18,541.03. Year to Date, donations to the Operating Fund (General Tithes and Offerings) are up about \$2,300 over 2019. As of October 31st, our Operating Fund is running at a deficit of \$24,863.45. Last year at this time the deficit was \$43,871.03.

I really want to thank those of you who have continued to support us financially by mailing checks to the church, dropping off checks or cash in the mailbox near the church office door, or by using our eGiving portal since we were forced to go virtual early this year. To those of you who have not been able to support us because your financial situation has been adversely affected by the pandemic situation, you are in my thoughts and prayers. To those of you who have the financial means to help support your church but have chosen not to because you’re upset that we haven’t been able to meet in person, please know that Rev. Holly and your Vestry are doing the very best they can to make the right decisions. I’m praying for you as well.

Blessings!

Dave Dunlap, Treasurer
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Episcopal Social Enterprise Academy Update

Social Enterprise is an initiative of the national Episcopal Church. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of Episcopal churches doing social enterprise. Social Enterprise projects have two purposes:

1. Do social good for the community consistent with our mission and the mission of the Episcopal Church.
2. Help the church remain solvent into the future. Many, many churches are struggling financially. Some have gone bankrupt. Social enterprise is a plan for sustainability. Relying solely on donations is no longer sustainable.

Emmanuel joined the L.A. Diocese's Social Enterprise Academy on June 16, 2020. We met monthly or twice a month for three hours. Our last session was two weeks ago. Our Emmanuel group also met weekly on Zoom. Our job was to brainstorm ideas which might meet the criteria for social enterprise. We came up with around 10 ideas and ended up with three options for serving the community and supplementing our budget. For each idea, the Social Enterprise Academy required us to do a Feasibility Study and a Competitive Comparison. The Feasibility Study looked at what our investment would be and whether we could afford it. The Competitive Comparison was a spreadsheet which laid out who our competitors would be and listed various characteristics of each. Based on these very time-consuming activities, we eliminated all of the projects except one – the re-imagined preschool.

After talking with our parishioner Ashley Nick, who works in a nature-based early learning center in Newport Beach, we began to explore whether this would be a good option for us. At that point, our parishioner Chris Becerra joined us. He has 20 years of experience leading and starting early learning programs. We did the competitive comparison and found that there are no true nature-based preschools in our part of Orange County. We already have natural spaces, especially the Children's Garden developed by Nancy Shively and the preschool teachers, so we are well on our way. We presented our proposal to the Social Enterprise Academy. It was accompanied by a power point and narrated by Chris Becerra and it got a lot of positive feedback.

After deciding on the Early Learning Center, we worked in more detail on the Feasibility Study and especially on the Business Plan. These are requirements of the Academy. Jan Zonne has written a draft business plan and our next step is to complete and refine it. We will present the Business Plan and the Power Point to the Vestry in December. If you have questions on Social Enterprise, please email Rev. Holly.

Beautifying the Memorial Garden

As most of you know, the area in front of the Church has been designated as a sacred space for the interment of ashes. There are two Memorial Plaques on the wall with names honoring Emmanuel members who have had a small private family service there to inter their ashes. Often this service has a been held after a larger Memorial Service in the Sanctuary celebrating their life.

With all the wonderful recent improvements and updating of the Church areas -- the walkway, Edwards Hall, and Havermale Hall -- it is certainly timely to update and beautify this sacred space. Unfortunately, a couple of the hedges enclosing the area have died so the area was not looking very pleasant. Something needed to be done soon. Also needed was another plaque

for additional names. The Vestry asked me to form a committee of interested folks to create a plan, get estimates and present it to the Vestry for approval. The Committee members are Rev. Holly, Janet Anderson, Gordon and Lorra Dickinson, Dave Dunlap, Howard Minkley, and myself.

Our vision was to have a secluded, separated space with a rose garden area and place to sit and meditate. So far, we have incorporated many new ideas and have drawn up a scale plan view and are in the process of getting estimates. The remaining hedges have been cut down. The big hedges will be replaced with a professionally constructed, painted, redwood latticed fence to form a partial enclosure. We visualize vines on the lattice fence and a rose garden that will be planted to separate the sacred ground and the meditation area. An additional marble plaque will be placed on the wall just to the west of the existing two. Additionally, three crape myrtle bushes will be planted in the lawn in front of the Memorial Garden fence. Bids are now out and we look forward to seeing our vision finalized soon.

If anyone is interested in getting more details or assisting with funding, please call or email me.

Ted Jones
Senior Warden

Legacy Fund Update

Are you aware of the Emmanuel Legacy Fund?

Throughout our time at Emmanuel many of us have given gifts - of time, talent and financial support - to sustain the mission and ministry of the parish. The Emmanuel Legacy Fund was set up so that we have the opportunity to continue that stewardship through planned giving, to make a commitment to the future of Emmanuel. The greatest reward comes from knowing that we recognize the needs of others, not just now, but into the future.

The Legacy Fund is an endowment fund. It operates under a Plan of Operations approved by the Vestry several years ago. It receives, invests and administers bequests and charitable gifts to the parish. The investment of the Fund is handled by Wilshire Associates in the Long Term Diversified fund of the Diocese Investment Trust. It is a broadly diversified, conservatively managed fund seeking long term appreciation. We receive a monthly report on how our Emmanuel account is doing. The Emmanuel's funds within the Diocese Investment Trust are strictly for our own use - no part of it is for the Diocese.

It was decided when it was begun that the Emmanuel Legacy Fund must reach \$100,000 before it's generated income can be used. The original capital cannot be touched. When the invested amount is over \$100,000, then an annual distribution from the Fund is available, if needed, up

to a maximum of 5% per year. The proceeds are limited to capital needs, outreach ministries, seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects. It cannot be used for operating expense. The Vestry must approve the expenditure. As you can imagine, this year's investment results have been volatile; but the good news is that as of September's report the balance was \$87,000. Only \$13,000 to go before it benefits our needs!

Please consider the Emmanuel Legacy Fund in your planning for current charitable gifts, or in the planning in your wills and bequests. You can make a long-term difference to our special church, Emmanuel! If you have any questions or need further information, please call or email me.

Ted Jones
Senior Warden

The Growing Connection

"The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there."
—George Bernard Shaw

This Fall it has been perfect gardening weather – warm and sunny during the day. It is colder at night and plants are not growing much. In our beds at the Community Garden we still have a few things. We have two fennel plants left. They are ready to harvest but they keep better in the ground than in the refrigerator. We plan to have one of them for Thanksgiving. It will be a small gathering, only three of us. One eggplant is still blooming, and the fava beans are out. We have not started to plant yet, but others have. One of the artichokes died but two of the others have set pups. (It is called pups when a mature plant sends out another plant at its base.) We will take one of the pups and plant it in place of the one that died.

Tim is very diligently making compost. Please feel free to take some as you need it. Howard was having trees pruned on the church grounds and included our large ash tree. Thank you to Howard and the church for this. The tree had not been pruned in four years and it was needed. If you remember, the last time it was pruned was when one of the large branches split from the main tree. The tree looked bare for a while but it soon recovered and you wouldn't even know that one of its main branches had been removed. Aren't plants amazing things? And God is amazing in his creation.

Happy Growing!
Lorra and Gordon

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	2 7:00 PM Taizé Service on Zoom	3	4	5 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
6 10:00 AM Parking Lot Pulpit (if weather permits)	7 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	8 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	9	10 5:00 PM Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom	11	12 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
13 10:00 AM Parking Lot Pulpit (if weather permits)	14 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	15 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	16 6:30 PM Vestry on Zoom	17	18	19 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom 9:00 AM Plant Sale
20 10:00 AM Parking Lot Pulpit (if weather permits)	21 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	22 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	23	24 TBD Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25	26 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
27 10:00 AM Online Service - Zoom and Facebook Live	28 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	29 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	30	31		

This Month's Happenings

Most in-person events have been cancelled until further notice. During Advent, services will be held as Parking Lot Pulpits at 10 am on Sunday.

Mondays at 7 p.m.

Evening Bible Study on Zoom

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Women's Bible Study on Zoom

Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Men's Bible Study on Zoom

Wednesday, December 2, 7pm

Taizé on Zoom

Thursday, December 10, 5 pm

Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom

No Movie Night this month

Thursday, December 24, TBD

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

DO YOU STILL WANT "THE EPISTLE" IN PAPER FORM? OUR NEW PRINTING COMPANY WILL MAKE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO WOULD PREFER ONE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE ELECTRONIC "EPISTLE," PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO office@emmanuelfullerton.org, AND WE WILL SWITCH YOU OVER IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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