



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

Volume 28, Issue 2

February 2022

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Sunday Worship Service at 9 a.m.*

God Is With Us

Omicron is tearing through the country. People are staying home to stay safe, again. People we know and love are getting infected and sick. Vaccinations have kept people from becoming gravely ill and going to the hospital but it is still an anxious time.

The uncertainty of these last two years and the anxiety that produces in each one of us is taxing on our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. There's a tiredness and sadness that is being felt by me and expressed by my friends, colleagues and people in our community. Living through these last two years has brought me into deeper faith because I am utterly powerless over what is happening in the world. When I admit my powerlessness, that I can't control people, places or things, I am creating space in my life and heart for greater faith in God.

God speaks to the prophet Joshua, assistant of Moses, after the death of Moses. God says, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

Theologian and Bible scholar Marcus Borg writes that the Bible points us in the direction of God which deepens our relationship with the Divine. God, communicating to the people of ancient Israel to be strong and courageous, God was with them wherever they went, gives me the reassurance that God will be with me, with you and with us wherever we go. We can be strong and courageous in

face of what frightens and dismays us, and God will be with us every step of the way.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Holly+

IMPORTANT: EMMANUEL EPISTLE MAILING LIST UPDATE

We have not updated the Epistle mailing list for many years. We are transitioning to a new editor. Please contact us with one of these choices:

- 1. I want to keep receiving the Epistle in paper form.**
- 2. I want to receive the Epistle in electronic form.**
- 3. I do not want to receive the Epistle.**

If we do not hear from you by March 15, we will assume that you no longer wish to receive the Epistle.

Here is how to contact us:

- Email us at office@emmanuelfullerton.org. Please include your name and the city you live in.**
- Call us at 714-879-8070. Leave a voicemail with your name and your city if no one answers. Please spell your last name for us.**
- Write us a letter to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1145 W. Valencia Mesa Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833.**

The Growing Connection

Greetings! Happy New Year! I know that was some time ago, but since I wrote the January Epistle article in December, I feel like this is the first one for 2022. So, Happy New Year and may this year be filled with blessings and beautiful gardens.

We had some very nice rain early in January. It has made everything want to grow. Even the weeds. If you have had a weed problem in the past or if you managed to let some things go to seed last growing season, you will soon see everything sprouting. If you don't want them growing where they are, they are weeds. Once they have sprouted the best thing to do is pull them before they set their roots down. Another option is to put down a weed preemergent. This will kill the seeds as they sprout. Be careful though, it will kill all seeds, it does not discriminate. If you put it down, do not plant seeds for about 3 months. However, it is fine to plant plants that are already growing.

A good number of years ago I managed to let a couple celery plants go to seed. The next year I had an abundance of celery children. I pulled most of them out, leaving only what I thought I could use. Every year since I let one plant go to seed, and I have had a continuous supply of celery. This year we let fennel go to seed and I am expecting hundreds of baby fennels any time soon.

The prayers are working. Last Saturday I spent most of the day preparing for the Plant Sale on January 15. This is a real improvement – working most of the day. Today I managed to plant a good number of seeds, mostly herbs. I think I have shared with you that I am trying my hand at growing from seed – a new adventure for me. I have always been too late to grow from seed, or maybe too impatient. Yesterday, Gordon came home telling me about the wonderful selection of plants at Lowe's and I almost caved. Thus, the reason for the seed planting today. He said that the Lowe's plants were around \$5 each. Another good reason to grow from seed. I don't think any of my seed packets cost that much.

Gordon has planted our onions at the Community Garden – the one bunch we purchased actually had 96 plants. The shallots are planted, (His shallot 'seeds' were the baby ones he harvested from last years crop.) and Saturday he planted the leeks. In early January he planted Sugar Snap

Peas and they are up. (He says, that despite our cold nights the soil is warm.) Now we are trying to figure out how to keep those cute little bunnies from eating the baby peas.

If you have a garden plot at the Garden, now is the time to be sure it's cleaned and ready for Spring planting. If you need help with this let us know. If you don't have a plot and would like one, or know someone who would like a plot, there is one waiting for you.

Blessings and Happy Growing
Lorra and Gordon

Poinsettia Care Following Christmas

Did you receive a Poinsettia for Christmas? Or maybe you just treated yourself to one? Are you now wondering what to do? (Besides tossing it.) Here in California, it is not that difficult to grow poinsettias in containers. After all, over 70% of the plants grown commercially start in California. Follow these simple steps to get your Poinsettia to rebloom for next Christmas.

1. Keep your plant free from drafts in a bright location for 6+ hours per day. Day temperatures need to be 65 to 70 degrees F, slightly cooler at night, but above 60° to avoid leaf drop.
2. Continue normal watering keeping the plant evenly moist until the 1st of April. (If your plant becomes leggy cut the stems back to about 4 inches and repot into fresh potting soil. Note: You can remove any faded or dried parts at any time.)
3. Check the plant regularly to make sure it has adequate moisture. Water only when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch.
4. After new growth begins, feed every couple of weeks with an all-purpose fertilizer.
5. In early summer, allow the plant to receive bright light until it is receiving full sun. At this time it's a good idea to repot the plant. Many container plants are grown in mostly compost. Because compost is lighter than a good potting soil it is the least expensive way for growers to ship. If when you tip your plant out of its pot you see a lot

- of roots move to a larger (one inch larger) pot and into a good potting soil. Continue to water and fertilize through the summer.
6. Around the middle of July remove 1 inch of terminal growth from each stem. Then again, in September trim off 2 to 3 inches to promote side branching. If you can allow 3 to 4 leaves to remain on each shoot.
 7. Now for the fun part: getting your plant to bloom for next Christmas. Poinsettias require short day lengths to bloom. Begin keeping your poinsettia in complete darkness for about 12-14 hours per day from early October to Thanksgiving – for an 8-10-week period. To achieve this place your plant in a closet, taking it out after 14 hours, or cover it with a large box every evening taking it off 14 hours later. Darkness means complete darkness with no house or street lights.
 8. By Thanksgiving you can put the plant in a sunny area. Reduce water and fertilizer. By Christmas your poinsettia will again be the centerpiece of your Christmas décor.
 9. If your plant does not bloom for Christmas, it will bloom after Christmas. And remember the foliage is very pretty, it makes a beautiful plant. And there is always next year.

Ask me about what I did some years ago when my poinsettia did not bloom for Christmas.

Here's to beautiful poinsettias year after year,
Lorra

“The Reign of God”

“As glimpsed in [Jesus’] parables and practices, the reign of God is a gracious rule of saving love and communion. As a place where God’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven, it sets up a new kind of community...In this community tyranny is countermanded in the light of God’s self-giving ways: male and female are equal partners, as are Jew and Greek. Justice, peace, and the well-being of all creatures are the goal...Knowing God is impossible unless we enter into a life of love and communion with others...”

Father Richard Rohr, “Daily Meditation,” January 13, 2022

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	2 7:00 PM Taizé Service	3 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	4 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	5 9:00 - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study
6 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 2:00 - 8:30 PM EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	7 7:00 - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	8 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	9	10 6:30 PM Early Birds 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	11 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	12 9:00 - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study
13 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 2:00 - 8:30 EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	14 7:00 - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	15 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	16 6:30 PM Vestry	17 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	18 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	19 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM EKKO Church. Recess (Respite Ministry for Special Needs Families) 9:00 - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM- 12:00 Plant Sale and Garden Work Day
20 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 2:00 - 8:30 PM EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	21 7:00 - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	22 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	23	24 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	25 6:30 PM Movie night 7:00 - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	26 9:00 - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study
27 9:00 - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 2:00 - 8:30 PM EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	28 7:00 - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study					

This Month's Happenings

Mondays at 7 p.m.
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Evening Bible Study begins September 20
Women's Bible Study begins September 21
Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 2, 7pm
Thursday, February 10, 6:30pm
Saturday, February 19, 9-12

Taizé
Early Birds
Plant Sale and Garden Work Day

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