



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

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Sunday Worship Service 9 am*

Love

The wrongs of the world could be made right if we humans did a better job of embodying the love of Jesus. Living from love seems like it should be simple. The lectionary readings this year for the Easter season included John's first letter that is all about love. The writer reminds us that "God is light and in him there is no darkness at all." (1Jn 1:5) Moreover, he says that when we love each other we are living in that light (1Jn 2:10). In this letter, John teaches what St. Francis said so well, to "Wear the world like a loose garment," with our identity as Christ followers superseding all of the other identities we possess as human beings living in the world. John is merely inviting his readers back to the moment in the upper room before Jesus's arrest, when Jesus taught his disciples that there are only two commandments: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. This is all we need to know. Love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Who is our neighbor? Everyone. Everyone is our neighbor.

As we return to worship in person together as one beloved community of Christ followers, let's take this celebration of love out into the world in everything we do. They will know we are Emmanuelites by the way we love each other and everyone else, too.

Blessings, Rev. Holly+

Senior Warden's Corner

Loren Maxwell

By the time that you read this article we will have had our first service inside the sanctuary in over a year. Pentecost 2021 will not soon be forgotten. What have I learned in the past year? I have learned that we have an amazing rector who was able to pivot and continue our worship together on Zoom and Facebook Live with the help of many of you. Rev. Holly celebrates her second anniversary at Emmanuel this month and we appreciate her ministry and leadership during these troubling times. We will continue with Facebook Live, even though we are back in the sanctuary. It provides a connection for people that have joined us from out of the area, for people who are homebound and for people who do not yet feel safe returning to in-person worship. I have learned to appreciate time spent with family and friends, especially over a meal inside a restaurant. It was something that I took for granted until it was take away. I also learned to appreciate the things that I could safely do rather than bemoan what I could not do. While concerts, movie theatres and airplane flights were no longer safe options for me, I could still walk the dog, ride my bike and play golf. Much gratitude that we are on a path to normalcy again.



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

Thank you so much for your continued financial support for Emmanuel!

Operating income for April was \$22,502.33 while expenses were \$25,012.70. This means we had a net operating fund loss of \$2,510.37 for the month. This is really pretty good. We had expenses of \$1,858.53 related to the reopening of our preschool which included job postings to hire our new Director, Tim Bongco, and graphic design work for the new logo and business cards. We had non-contracted maintenance expenses of \$2,973.27 which included \$1,800 for the landscape work outside Rev. Holly's office near the playground. Much of that was for labor to remove the remaining tree roots that could not be removed during the stump grinding process after we cut down that big tree that was in imminent danger of falling.

We're upgrading our audio and video equipment in preparation for going back to church in the Sanctuary on May 23rd. If you'd like to help support this effort you can make a donation on our website and select the "Audio / Video Upgrade" choice, or you can mail a check to the church and write "A/V upgrade" on the memo line.

With much gratitude for your prayers and support!

Blessings!

Dave Dunlap, Treasurer

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Why Emmanuel?

Marian Corral

It was March 2017, and I was new to the area and seeking so many things: a place to live, a job, a sense of purpose, but most of all a Church. My life for the previous six years or so had been full of mass chaos, losing my father, laid off from a job I loved which had also provided my housing, a marriage barely hanging on by a thread, and having to leave my new church and all my friends there. Moving thirty miles away made it impossible to continue attending every Sunday. So, you could say I was homeless x 2, no place to live, and no church. My main priority was finding a job and a place to live; then I thought I'd look for a church. But I realized I had my priorities in the wrong order, I needed to find a church first. I knew without that, I would not be able to handle the situation I was in on my own.

Now mind you, this church and Bible business and putting my faith in the Lord was all fairly new to me. I didn't find this until the previous year at St, John's Episcopal Church in Rancho Santa Margarita, the first Episcopal church I had ever attended. I was always envious of those who were active and involved in the church, helping at all the church functions and with the ministries. They knew everyone's name and others knew their name, all part of a true church family. I so wanted to find that for myself. Friends encouraged me to go check out a few new churches and told me I'd know when I found the right one.

I went online to look up churches in the area and found a couple close by. As I drove by Emmanuel, to be honest it didn't look like much from the street. But all that changed the moment I walked inside. Everyone was so warm and friendly throughout the service and afterward, at coffee hour, they came up to me and introduced themselves. It was a moment I will never forget.

As we all know, things are done a little differently at Emmanuel. From the passing of the peace, to the communion, through the closing prayer, it all was very different for me, but that changed very quickly once I started attending regularly. What once felt odd and different has come to be what I love most here at Emmanuel. I treasure all the hugs,

laying on of hands and especially the Emmanuel circle. Very quickly I began to feel part of this beautiful family.

The love and support I have received here is my most treasured gift. You have welcomed me and invited me to be part of your Church family. I have learned so much, especially since becoming a member of the Vestry, which I am extremely proud to be a part of. I have learned so much from the sermons and all of you. You all show me every day that God is love. My life has changed in so many ways over the past four years; everything I was seeking I have found: home, job, sense of purpose, and most of all, a Church. I thank God every day for all my blessings and for all of you.

Looking back, I now know that it was God who led me to Emmanuel. God is good all of the time.

Social Enterprise Project Update **Discovery Gardens: Emmanuel Environmental Early Learning Center**

Our new Discovery Gardens Director has been hired. His name is Tim Bongco, and he has years of experience in Early Childhood Education. He also holds a Master's Degree in the field. He has already worked on the website, started recruiting students, and is preparing the classrooms. We will be taking out the asphalt in the playground to provide a more natural setting for our students, and we appreciate any donations you can give towards that expense and the cost of the new fence around the playground (\$18,000). We already have a very generous contribution toward the fence, but the cost of materials and labor has gone up, and we have to cover that. The Discovery Garden parents and teachers, along with the Emmanuel community, will participate in the decision making on the design of both the Children's Garden and the playground.

If you would like to donate, please get in touch with Rev. Holly or our treasurer, Dave Dunlap (bookkeeper@emmanuelfullerton.org). We are so grateful to those who have already donated! Thank you!

The Growing Connection

When we began the Emmanuel Community Demonstration Garden, one of my behind-the-scenes goals was to inspire more people to garden, even if it was in a container on their balcony. I think that has happened. Many of you have shared your gardening adventures with me.

It is also possible that, in a selfish mode, we wanted more space in which to grow. I have shared with you before that I have always been more of an ornamental gardener than a vegetable gardener. Gordon wanted to grow vegetables. I did not want to give up my ornamental garden at home for vegetables – some vegetables can take a lot of space! I am ready to confess that I am enjoying watching the vegetables in our community garden plots grow. And I enjoying eating them; I am eating more vegetables than I ever have, and even some I barely knew existed. Also, we thought that the ‘Emmanuel weed garden’ was a perfect place for a Community Garden. Many of you agreed with us and we began to plan. And just look at what we created!

It has been a Gray May and now we are moving into June Gloom. This is perfect weather for working in the garden and for the cool weather crops. But not as good for our late spring crops to say nothing of the summer crops. It has just been too cool and overcast. The few warm (hot) days we have had helped some, but most things are just waiting for warmer days. Many don’t grow until the soil warms up. We have planted mostly from seed this year. This is a new experience for us as we usually plant seedlings we pick up from Orange County Farm Supply. (Plants we get from OC Farm always seem to grow best.) We have planted seeds for San Marzano tomatoes, often recommended by chefs in their recipes; acorn and butternut squash, planted on our arch trellis; cucumbers; spaghetti squash; fingerling potatoes; and peppers. We have harvested artichokes, by the dozen; leeks, the best we have grown; radishes; fava beans; sugar snap peas; and beets (we find beet tops to be the best greens for cooking).

We have also been working in the vineyard. All new vines have been planted. It was wonderful to watch (I love to watch skilled laborers working). Ten hard working guys showed up at 6:00 am on a Saturday morning. They set right to work emptying their supplies from the truck. It was like watching ants or bees – a group working in complete harmony. When one of them finished a job, they moved right over to help the worker next to them. They finished the job of planting almost 100 vines by noon. We had told them we would provide lunch for them. When Gordon asked what time they wanted lunch, the answer was 9:00. They had started at 4:00 so 9:00 was about lunch time for them. We are so grateful to Greg and his crew for all the help they have given us in getting our vineyard up and running again.

Watch for coming news of the opportunity to help in paying for the vines and the replanting of the vineyard. Also, we will begin planning a Release Party for our last two vintages.

Blessings and happy growing,
Lorra

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	2 7:00 PM Taizé Service	3 7:00 AM EKKO Church	4	5 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study
6 9:00 AM EKKO Church 9:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and online	7 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	8 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	9	10 7:00 AM EKKO Church 5:00 PM Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom	11	12 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study
13 9:00 AM EKKO Church 9:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and online	14 Flag Day 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	15 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	16 6:30 PM Vestry on Zoom	17 7:00 AM EKKO Church	18	19 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Plant Sale
20 Father's Day 9:00 AM EKKO Church 9:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and online	21 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	22 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	23	24 7:00 AM EKKO Church	25 6:30 PM Movie night	26 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study
27 9:00 AM EKKO Church 9:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and online	28 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	29 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	30			

This Month's Happenings

We returned to services in the Sanctuary at 9 am on May 23. Services are also online.

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

Evening Bible Study
Women's Bible Study
Men's Bible Study on Zoom

Wednesday, June 2, 7pm
Thursday, June 10, Time TBA
Saturday, June 19, 9-12
Friday, June 25, 6:30 pm

Taizé
Early Birds
Plant Sale and Garden Work Day
Movie Night

Please help us out!

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And if you no longer wish to receive the Epistle, you can email us at office@emmanuelfullerton.org and let us know.

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