

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements [Bill]

- *etc., + elements of communion: gluten free bread and grape juice*
- *lastly: the sung response for covenanting is taught by Swee Hong Sung: MV 219 Ameni!*

continuing...

As we gather for all that lies ahead in our work and worship and practices of community life in this coming year, we begin with a Territorial Acknowledgement:

Territorial Acknowledgement: [Joy]

As we come together in this place, we take a moment to acknowledge this sacred land on which Emmanuel College and the University of Toronto stands.

This has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. Let us be mindful of broken covenants, and strive to make right with all our relations.

a candle is lit

silence is kept

A Covenant of Learning and Witness [Michael Bourgeois]

As we gather for worship at the start of a new academic year, we pause to covenant together for learning and witness in this place and beyond.

Sung: MV 219 Ameni!

It is with deep joy and thanksgiving that we formally welcome new persons to the Emmanuel College community.

In particular, we are pleased to welcome two new members of faculty to our community:

I invite **Cuilan** and **Pam** to come forward.

Dr. Cuilan Liu, you have been appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies at Emmanuel College. We give thanks for the rich gifts you bring to us.

Will you join with us in a covenant of learning and witness in this community and beyond? If so, please answer by saying – “Yes, I will.”

Yes, I will. (*remain standing in place*)

Dr. Pam McCarroll, you have been appointed to the position of Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Emmanuel College. We give thanks for the rich gifts you bring to us.

Will you join with us in a covenant of learning and witness in this community and beyond? If so, please answer by saying “Yes, I will.” –

Yes, I will. (*remain standing in place*)

It is our pleasure and delight to officially welcome you both, and to celebrate your presence among us; and we have gifts! (*they are presented with gifts by Joy and Gregory*).

Let all the people say: Amen!

Sung: MV 219 Ameni!

(*They are asked to remain standing at the front as we continue...*)

And now I invite all **new students of the incoming class**, in all programs, to rise, in body or in spirit, and join in this covenant. [*they rise*]

We celebrate and give thanks for the experience and gifts you bring to Emmanuel College.

Will you join with us in a covenant of learning and witness in this community and beyond? If so, please answer by saying, “**Yes, I will**”

Let all the people say: Amen!

Sung: MV 219 Ameni!

And now I invite any alums who are with us this afternoon to rise in body or in spirit, that we may acknowledge your presence

. . . . *they rise* . . .

We are grateful for your presence with us today, and we give thanks for your ministries and service in the Emmanuel College community and beyond.

As you remain standing, I invite all returning students, faculty, staff—and all others who are present with us today—to rise in body or in spirit, and join our alums. [*they rise*]

We're glad you've come back!

We celebrate and give thanks for the gifts and experience you continue to bring to this community.

Will all of you who have returned to this place join with those who are new, and continue in this shared covenant of learning and witness, here and beyond? If so, please answer by saying – **Yes, I will.**

Friends, together we are the Emmanuel College community, a local and extended family of partnership in theological education, a people of worship and work, witness and practice. May our thanksgiving and celebration inspire and empower our many forms of faith and service. Let all the people say: Amen.

Sung: MV 219 Ameni!

Gathering Words

[Pam Mc]

from Psalm 122

The Psalmist writes: I was glad when they said to me,

Let us go to the house of God.

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

There the tribes go up, all the tribes of God,

to give thanks for the name of God.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

For the sake of the house of God, I will seek your good.

[Nevin]

Qur'an 22:26-27

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

And we showed Abraham the site of the House, saying,

"Do not assign partners to Me.

Purify My House for those who circle around it,

those who stand to pray, and those who bow and prostrate themselves.

Proclaim the pilgrimage to all people.

They will come to you on foot and on every kind of lean camel,

emerging from every deep mountain pass.

[Cuilan]

Praise of the Assembly in the Lotus Pond

At the assembly in the Lotus Pond,

Amitābha Buddha, the Tathāgata,

Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara,

and Bodhisattva Mahāsthāmaprāpta

sat on the lotus platform,

receiving and guiding us to ascend the Golden Ladder.

Having taken great vows, we wish all to transcend the mundane world.

Homage to the Great Bodhisattvas at the assembly in the Lotus Pond.

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Hymn: MV 159 “In Star and Crescent”

[piano, organ, percussion]

Opening Prayer: VU 525 “You Embrace All Peoples”

[Pam Couture invites us to prayer in unison]

in unison

WORD

Psalm 148: p. 871 [Awit]

Our Psalm reading is found on p. 871 in *Voices United*. We will read it responsively, beginning together with the sung refrain

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-13 [Josette; English on screen]

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Shrewd Dealings”

Mark Toulouse

Silent Reflection

. . . *silence* . . .

Prayers of the People: Sung Response –MV 90 “Don’t Be Afraid”

Greg, Awit, Joy, on each side and in the centre aisle; play intro lines; then we sing once:

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don’t be afraid. My loves is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.*

Greg: Gracious God, Creator and Sustainer of Life, Source of Love:

We give you thanks for all that is good as we gather:

- for this community, diverse yet gathered into one, for the common good;
- for these days of new beginnings, in all their excitement, anxiety and hope;
- for this season of harvest, its nourishment for our eyes, our bodies and our souls;

We thank you especially today for the people on whom we rely for support on our many journeys; we remember those who have gone before us, who inspire us on the way. In the silence of our hearts, or spoken aloud, we name all that for which we give thanks today *silence [20 seconds]*

We thank you for all the expressions of your love and presence, which is stronger than our fear.

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My loves is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

Awit: Holy Mystery, God of many names, God beyond all words:

We are also mindful of brokenness within us, among us, or around us:

- in the struggle of individuals to be healthy, whole and free;
- in our relationships with other individuals and peoples; our need for forgiveness, our longing for reconciliation, our desire for peace born of justice;
- in Canada, we remember murdered and missing Aboriginal women and their families, who seek truth and justice;
- in our cities, we remember that people are homeless, that children are hungry, and that black lives matter;
- around the world, we lament the continued tension and trauma, violence and war: in Israel and Palestine; in Syria and Turkey; we remember that millions of people are displaced and on the move;
- and we remember also those close to us who are distressed or ill, waiting or struggling in any way;

In the silence of our hearts, or spoken aloud, we name concerns and persons in need of our prayer and support, your presence and guidance *silence [20 seconds]*

Show us the things that make for peace and healing, O God, and help us overcome our fear:

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My loves is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

Joy: God of history and story, Spirit of unity and diversity,
we pray today for all communities of faith and all traditions of spiritual
practice—in synagogue and church, mosque and temple.

We pray for the work and witness of The Toronto School of Theology
and its Colleges; we remember the The United Church of Canada, its
congregations and ministries, presbyteries and districts, conferences and the
General Council.

And we pray for ourselves, and who gather in this College learning.
Grant us all the vision to see in our shared life and work, ways towards more
vibrant faith and deeper understanding. And guide us as we seek to practice
that love which casts out all fear.

*Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My loves is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.*

Amen. [**Amen.**]

leaders return to their seats

TABLE

Invitation & Peace [Pam Couture]

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is not the table of
Emmanuel College or The United Church of Canada, or of any particular
denomination. This is the table of Jesus Christ—beloved of God, and brother
to us all—and so all are welcome here.

In the name of the One who said, “I am the bread of life,” I invite you
to come and eat.

In the name of the One who said, “I am the true vine,” I invite you to
come and share in the cup of blessing.

In the name of the One who said, “Love one another, as I have loved,
you,” I invite you to the family feast of the people of God.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

we exchange signs of peace

Presentation Hymn: VU 460 “All Who Hunger”

during which time the elements are brought forward, the table is set,

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.
At your word the earth was made
and spun on its course among the planets.
You breathe life into us
and set us among all your creatures,
in a covenant of life and love and service.
And even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us.
You send your prophets and faithful followers
to bear witness to the goodness of your creation,
to proclaim your justice,
to remind us of your promise of peace,
and to call us back to you.

So it is that we join with the song of all creation to
proclaim your goodness:

O holy, holy, holy God, *[MV 203; on screen]*

O God of time and space.

***All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace!***

***Hosanna in the highest heav’n,
creation sings your praise.***

***And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!***

And now we recall again Jesus at table
—his radical hospitality and generous welcome to all—
which makes of this ordinary food an extraordinary feast.

We remember especially how he gathered with his friends
on the night before he died.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.”

In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, and said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus
—his life and death, and life beyond death—
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, [MV 204; on screen]
Christ will come again! (x2)***

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here.

Make of these gifts of your creation a new creation.

May they bless our lives with your life-giving presence.

May they give us comfort and strength, peace and wisdom.

May they make us whole, and show us the first fruits
of a new heaven and a new earth.

By this witness,

through this promise,

and in this hope,

we praise you:

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! (x2; MV 203; on screen)

We gather these and all our prayers,
thankful that we may turn to you as to a loving Parent, brooding over us,
as Our Father, who art in heaven, *[on screen]*

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

raising the plate of broken bread
The body of Christ, given for you.

raising the pitcher of juice
The blood of Christ, poured out for you. *(pour from jug into cups)*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*the servers are served first, to model intinction
the servers take their places at two stations*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION [words on screen]
VU 466 “Eat This Bread”
MV 202 “Bread for the Journey”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION [Pam invites the unison prayer]
on screen

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another
is gift and grace.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

HYMN: 697 “O for a World”

[piano and organ?]

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH [Mark]

Postlude: *Prelude in C* [Peter Merrick] *J. S. Bach*