

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements [Bill and Becca]

- Brief welcome by Bill, handing it over to Michelle for a welcome to all; she hands it over to alumni assoc president (Greg Daly) for greetings;
- Bill introduces Becca, who introduces Worship Team, waves a bookmark and plugs worshipwithemmanuel.ca
- *Becca notes elements of communion are* gluten free bread and grape juice
- *lastly: the sung response for covenanting is taught by Becca*
*Sung: **You are welcomed in this place** [Swee Hong on piano]Becca to begin acappella, Swee Hong to join half way through. All invited to join second time through.*

Becca, 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: [Morgan Bell]

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 land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

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 by Morgan

silence is kept

Gathering Words for Our Covenant of Learning

All three leaders assemble at the lectern, each taking their turn, remaining there as each says their part

from Psalm 122

[Pam McCarroll]

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.

Qur'an 22:26-27

[Eman Ali]

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.

Praise of the Assembly in the Lotus Pond [Cuilan Liu]

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

Segue into *You are welcomed!* (twice at the beginning, once thereafter)

A Covenant of Learning and Witness

[Bill leads, with Becca and Swee Hong leading the response]

As we come together at the beginning of a new academic year,
let us covenant together for learning and witness
in this place and beyond.

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]*

...and I would ask you to remain standing, that others may join you in
this covenant.

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?

If so, please answer by saying, **“Yes, I will”**

Let all the people say: Amen!

Sung: You are welcomed!

And now, I invite all **returning students, faculty, staff and alums—
and all others who are present with us today**

—to rise in body or in spirit, and join our new students. *[all rise]*

To those who are returning, we’re glad you’ve come back!

To our alums, we cherish your continued support!

To all, 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.**

Sung: You are welcomed!

please be seated

And now, last but not least, I invite our new principal, The Rev. Dr. Michelle Voss Roberts to come forward.

Michelle Voss Roberts, you have been appointed to position of Principal and Professor of Theology at Emmanuel College, the 13th Principal in the College's 90 year history. It is with great joy that we formally welcome you today, and give thanks for the rich gifts you bring to us.

Will you join with us, as our leader and colleague, in this covenant of learning and witness at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto and the Toronto School of Theology?

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,
and to celebrate your presence among us . . .

(*applause? as gift givers come forward*)

. . . and we have gifts!

(*gifts are presented—by Shawn, Jo-Anne and Wanda*)

Friends, together we are the Emmanuel College community,
a local and extended family of partnership in theological education,
a people of worship, witness and practice.

May our shared work inspire and empower
our many forms of faith and service.

Let all the people say: Amen.

Sung: You are welcomed!

(*which becomes an act of welcoming as we greet one another, about three X*)

*as the singing and welcoming draws to a close, Bill announces the hymn
before the reading of scripture*

Hymn: MV 8 “And on This Path” (*Swee Hong, Bill and Becca*)

WORD

Reading: Proverbs 1:20-33 [Greg Daly]

A reading from the book of Proverbs...

Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square;
on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech:

“How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?
Repent at my rebuke!
Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,
I will make known to you my teachings.
But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays
attention when I stretch out my hand,
since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke,
I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—
when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over
you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

“Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated
knowledge and did not choose to fear Almighty God.
Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,
they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their
schemes.
For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;
but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease,
without fear of harm.”

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.

Wisdom 7, as found at VU, p. 892 (Organ: Peter Merrick)

...please stay seated...

Reading: James 3:1-2, 9-12 [Michael Bourgeios]

A reading from the Paul's letter to James...

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers,
because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

We all stumble in many ways.

Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect,
able to keep their whole body in check.

With the tongue we praise our God and Creator,
and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.
Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.

My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?

Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

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.

Hymn: MV 10 "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" (*Saya and Becca, sing together, with Swee Hong on the piano, intro: once through on piano*)

Reading Mark 8:27-31, 38 [Shawn Houston]

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.

On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Promised One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before God in glory.”

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: “Wisdom’s Blessing”

Michelle Voss Roberts

Silent Reflection

... silence. ...

Prayers of the People

Sung Response: **VU 400 “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**

(Swee Hong and Becca)

Four Worship Team leaders, marking the four corners of the space; play intro lines; then we sing once:

***Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us
grace!***

Rhiannon Hill: Gracious God, Creator and Sustainer of Life,
Source of Love:

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

- for these days of new beginnings . . .
- for those who guide us, support us, and inspire us
- for this community . . .

. . . . *silence [20 seconds]*

Lord, listen to your children praying...

Matt Boutda: Holy Mystery, God of many names, God beyond all words:
We remember brokenness—within us, among us, and around us.

We pray:

- for those who are ill . . .
- for those who are grieving . . .
- for those who are lonely . . .

silence [20 seconds]

Lord, listen to your children praying...

Saya Ojiri:

Disturbing and unsettling Presence, Holy Wisdom, restless Spirit, liberating
God:

Help us to live our faith in the world.

Show us how to accompany others as you accompany us.

Teach us to embody your longing for justice.

. . . . *silence [20 seconds]*

Lord, listen to your children praying...

Morgan Bell: God of history and story,
Spirit of unity and diversity,
we pray for all communities of faith
and all traditions of spiritual practice
—in synagogue and church, mosque and temple.
This week, especially, we remember, pray for, and with, our Jewish
colleagues and neighbours
who have just celebrated their new year, Rosh Hashanah.

We pray for our new principal Michelle;
guide her in this time of change and challenge.
And guide us all as we work together to make Emmanuel College
a vibrant community of caring and witness.

Amen. [**Amen.**]
leaders return to their seats

TABLE

Invitation & Peace (Prov. 8:1-3, 5-6)
[Pam McCarroll, members of the worship team to assist at Table]

Wisdom has built her house;
 she has hewn seven pillars,
She has prepared the meal;
 she has set her table and sent out her servants.
She calls from the highest places in the town:
 “Come, eat of my bread,
 and drink of the wine I have mixed.

This is the table of Jesus Christ—beloved of God, and friend to all
—all are welcomed here.

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

we exchange signs of peace

Presentation Hymn: VU 460 “All Who Hunger” (*Saya on recorder, Becca on kanjira, Bill on light percussion, gentle accompaniment on piano with Swee Hong*)

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.
You breathe life into us
and set us among all your creatures,
in a covenant of 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 home to you.

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

[Swee Hong playing responses]

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,
how with him they broke bread and raised the cup
as a sign of the fullness of life given for all.

Remembering God's boundless love for us in Jesus
—his life and death, and resurrection—
we proclaim together 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 share together here.
May these gifts of your creation give birth to a new creation
within and among us.
Through our sharing in your communion,
open us to your life-giving presence.
That we may know your comfort and strength, peace and wisdom.
Show us the first fruits of a new heaven and a new earth
that we might glimpse wholeness, known only in you.
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.**

Words of Institution

On the night of his betrayal and arrest, Jesus was at supper with his friends,
After giving thanks, Jesus took the bread and said,

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

lifting bread and breaking it

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

“This is the cup of the new covenant, given for you
do this to remember me.”

raising a chalice of juice

Every time we eat of this bread and drink of this cup we are declaring with
our actions, our hope in Christ beyond all powers of death.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to G-d

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

Words for serving:

The Bread of Life, given for you.

The Cup of Blessing, given for you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION [words on screen]

MV 202 “Bread for the Journey” (*Swee Hong on piano*)

VU 717 “Hallelujah” (*acappella, Swee Hong, Matt, Saya and Becca, possible heart beat drum – Bill*)

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: Wisdom Led the New Stars Burning

Text: Ian Sowton, Tune: Hyfrydol (*Peter Merrick on organ, possibly Swee Hong on piano, Becca on trumpet*)

1. Wisdom led the new stars burning
in the first steps of their dance,
and she smiled to see earth blushing
at the sun’s warm primal glance.
Joyous firstling of God’s action,
sign of heaven’s inventiveness,
Wisdom plays with clearest pleasure
in creation’s lavishness.

2. Those who join the Jesus-movement
hear in Christ Sophia's call:
I decline your ritual offerings,
give me equity for all.
When will you admit my outcasts,
dignify my dispossessed?
Never mind your solemn gatherings--
do the gospel you've professed.

3. From the breast of Christ-Sophia
milk of justice kindly flows,
feeds our will to love creation,
grace to live in hope bestows.
Kingdom come is what we look for,
easy yoked and burdened light;
one day all shall join with Wisdom
carefree, playing in delight.

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH [Michelle Voss Roberts]

Postlude: [Peter]