



Come to the Table of Hospitality

Jesus' lesson at the last
supper was clear...
the meal of the kin-dom of
God is for all.
Saints,
strangers,
those who persecute and
betray you,
those who are joyful and
those who weep.

FOCUS Churches at Worship

September 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Gathering and Announcements

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical/mental ability, mental health, economic situation, religious background, or immigration status.

The Prelude

Setting the Table

Hymn: 507

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Sung by the choir and then by the congregation.

The Call to Worship

One: We know that there is a place for us at this table.

Many: Our hearts are filled with gratitude!

One: We notice that there is a place for those not like us.

**Many: We come ready to open our hearts
beyond their current size.**

One: We humbly take our seat.

Many: We look into each face and know the presence of Jesus!

*Opening Hymn: (*see insert*)

"Let's Walk Together"

Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Affirmation of Children

Scripture Reading

Romans 12: 9-21
Matthew 16: 24-25

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Our offerings this morning support FOCUS ministries. Checks may be made out to FOCUS churches. If you wish to give an offering to your home church, please indicate that on your check or envelope.

Anthem

Morning Prayer

Prayer Response: *“Be Present at Our Table, Lord”*

***Be present at our table, Lord,
be here and everywhere adored;
thy creatures bless, and grant that we
may feast in fellowship with thee.***

Sermon

The Rev. Kathy Donley

Lavish Hospitality

Communion Service

*Hymn: 507

“Come to the Table of Grace”

Verse 1 is sung two times,

Other verses will be interspersed through the time of communion.

Invitation and Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**As we have been shown the hospitality of Jesus,
may we take on the mantle of hospitality in our own lives,
eating and drinking and inviting others to the welcome table.
We have been fed. We have been nourished.
We have been transformed.
It is with Great Thanks that we have come to this table. Amen!**

Closing Verse

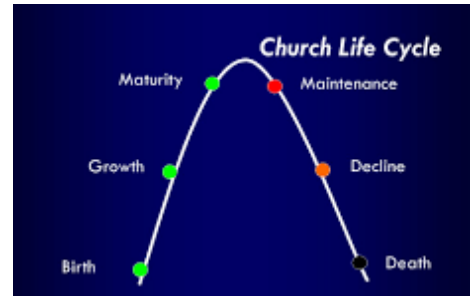
*Come to the table of joy,
Come to the table of joy.
This is God’s table, it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of joy!*

*The Benediction

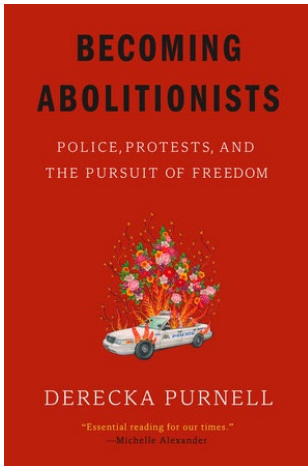
The Postlude



Adult Forum on The Church Life Cycle September 24 following worship led by Pastor Kathy



There is a time to be born and a time to die, according to Ecclesiastes. People, animals, stars and even organizations come to the end of the life cycle. The churches were which planted by the apostles are no longer alive. Death is not all bad news for people of the Resurrection. For people of the Resurrection, death is not something to be avoided at all costs. However, there are ways to re-vitalize a church, to launch a new generative cycle, before death becomes inevitable. Pastor Kathy will share a church life cycle model developed by George Bullard and together, we will consider Emmanuel's life stage and the implications of that for our current ministry and mission.



Becoming Abolitionists Book Discussion led by Jim Wilkerson October 16 following worship

In *Becoming Abolitionists*, Derecka Purnell draws from her experiences as a lawyer and organizer who was initially skeptical about police abolition. She saw too much sexual violence and buried too many friends to consider getting rid of police in her hometown of St. Louis, let alone the nation. But the police were a placebo. “Calling them felt like something, and something feels like everything when the other option seems like nothing.”

Purnell details how multi-racial social movements rooted in rebellion, risk-taking, and revolutionary love pushed her and a generation of activists toward abolition. The book travels across geography and time and offers lessons that activists have learned from Ferguson to South Africa, from Reconstruction to contemporary protests against police shootings. Here, Purnell invites readers to envision new systems that work to address the root causes of violence. *Becoming Abolitionists* shows that abolition is not solely about getting rid of police, but a commitment to create and support different answers to the problem of harm in society, and, most excitingly, an opportunity to reduce and eliminate harm in the first place. **Start reading now and plan to join what is sure to be a lively conversation on October 16. Limited copies of the book are available at local libraries. It is also available for purchase in paperback, e-book, and audiobook formats.**

Today you are invited, over coffee, to check out the handmade pottery mugs and bowls on display in the Fellowship Hall. Perhaps you need another houseplant? These items are for sale in support of our Civil Rights Pilgrimage. This February, 14 adults and youth will travel to Georgia and Alabama, experiencing and learning the history of racism in our country. Support this pilgrimage with a purchase, with a donation and with prayers.

Yes, fall is here. That means the holidays are approaching. Emmanuel is offering frozen apple pies that will taste delicious for those holiday meals. Order yours today!! Frozen pies will be available at the end of September to slip into your freezer. This is another project in support of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage. An order sign-up sheet will be at the stage in Fellowship Hall.

Reminder: *Emmanuel Homecoming September 10 – Sign up today!*
Worship Leaders and Readers are needed for Sundays in September and October.
A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage Planned

For the last two years, Emmanuel has been involved with the anti-racism project of the Alliance of Baptists called *Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice*. We have read important books, watched significant movies, and engaged in heartfelt conversations. Now we are planning an in-person pilgrimage to civil rights sites in Georgia and Alabama, February 17-24, 2024.

Fifth to eighth grade students must be accompanied by a responsible adult. High schoolers and adults may participate on their own with an agreement to abide by the group expectations. The cost will be about \$1400. Do not let financial concerns keep you from going. If you want to go, please speak with Jean Burton, Jim Wilkerson or Pastor Kathy very soon. **A deposit of \$200 and a commitment form are due no later than September 17.**

“Night Song”

Works by Debussy, Floyd, Backelet, Verdi, Porter, Bernstein, Shumann and more

September 17, 3:00 p.m. at Emmanuel

Rosanne Hargrave, Soprano

Michael Clement, Piano

Free Admission/donations appreciated

Dessert Reception

The Lord's Supper at Emmanuel

The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion is a celebration of remembrance and hope. At Emmanuel, we partake of Communion on the first Sunday of every month. The bread and juice will circulate separately. If you prefer to use pre-packaged elements, they will be served in one container on the bread tray.

As we share the bread and the cup we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his disciples and he broke bread with people from all walks of life, especially including the outcast and marginalized. On the night before his death, Jesus shared bread and wine with his followers and told them to continue to share this meal in remembrance of him. When we partake of communion, we remember his life, death, and resurrection. The Bible contains images of a great heavenly banquet as the end-time celebration of the reign of God. And so we understand the Lord's Supper as foretaste of eternal life, a great gathering of the huge cloud of witnesses from every place and time. We share this meal in trust that Christ is present in the past and the future and also present with us today, in the ordinary things of life, like bread and wine.

All who would follow Jesus are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. This is Christ's Table and all are welcome here. Parents are asked to make the decision about when their children are ready to participate. There are gluten-free crackers and grape juice is used in place of wine.

Worship leaders today are Nancy Horan, Jake Chipka, Eric Fagans, Margaret Randall, Paul Randall, and Chris VandeBunte.

Communion servers are Jean Burton, Brian Hughes, and Dwight Smith.

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

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