



# Emmanuel Newsflash

[www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca](http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca)

## A Message From Rev. Roni

We live in chaotic uncertain times! This is indeed not news! I am confident that most, if not all of you are taking seriously the guidelines of the Provincial government and are staying home as much as possible. We are hoping that the case counts decrease and we are praying for a safe and non-violent transition of power in the USA.

Jesus also lived with a high degree of chaos and uncertainty in first century Palestine, under an oppressive Roman regime and local government that mimicked the dominant oppressive culture. Jesus had very little social capital as the son of a woman who was pregnant before marriage, from an obscure village called Nazareth and from a family origin who survived on subsistence farming and limited wages from a home-operated carpentry business. Jesus didn't have much power in his culture and would be viewed by the leaders of his day as insignificant. If he made controversial and threatening statements, he could easily be silenced. I wonder if Jesus ever hoped that some person, thing or event will come along giving that final feeling of inner well-being? I know that at times, I long for that event, or moment in time that brings that inner sense of well-being. Jesus experiences such a moment at his baptism.

Mark tells us that the heavens tear open, the Holy Spirit descends on him taking the form of a dove and Jesus hears these words lovingly spoken, conveying great intimacy, like that of a father to a son, or a mother to a child "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

He hadn't done anything of significance at that time, his ministry had not yet begun, he simply came forward to receive the sign of baptism. He didn't have to work for it, he didn't have to earn it. It was a sign of God's favour and compassion and it extends to each one of us

In our context, we understand baptism as a sign of belonging into God's family. God's words "You are my Beloved" reveal the most intimate truth about all human beings, whether they belong to any particular tradition or not. I don't think you need to be a Christian to belong, Being Beloved is God's personal affirmation of each one of us. Each one of us, through grace are endearingly named God's compassionate choice-God's Beloved. The affirmation is also God's call to us.

It also comes with responsibility, "from the moment we claim the truth of being beloved, we are faced with the call to become who we are. Becoming beloved community is the great spiritual journey we have to make."

**Join us for online worship on Sunday January 17th 2021, 10:30 am. Our worship theme is "Being Called Beloved."**

Quotes from this reflection are taken from Henri Nouwen's "Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith: Spiritual Direction."

**The scripture readings for this week are:  
Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29 and Mark 1: 4-11**

**January 17, 2021  
Second Sunday  
After Epiphany**



**Online Worship Services will be posted by 10:30am on Sunday morning on Emmanuel's You Tube Channel.**

*Worship Services will continue to be delivered online only until further notice, due to the extended stay-at-home order from the Ontario Government.*

**AVENUES FOR FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING EMMANUEL'S MINISTRY AND MISSION.**

\* **AVGEN GIFT CARDS:** A Canadian owned company that specializes in helping Emmanuel fundraise by offering a broad range of vendor's gift cards. These gift cards can be used for purchases that you already plan to make anyway! Use the gift cards for day to day purchases such as groceries and gasoline or for occasional purchases like home improvements, electronics and much more. An easy way to financially support YOUR church without hurting your wallet! Contact-gtwilcox96@gmail.com.

\* **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** Is simply a form of giving where a monthly amount , of your choice, is automatically deducted from your bank account to support YOUR church. A convenient way to provide consistent year round financial support.

\* **E-TRANSFER:** From your personal online bank account to Brenda at euctreasurer@gmail.com

\* **CONTRIBUTE ELECTRONICALLY** through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) from the EUC website on the Home Page as well as the Donations page.

- ♦ There is a link ("**Donate Now**" button) with full easy to follow instructions.
- ♦ You can direct your donation to the General Fund, Legacy Fund, Memorial Fund, Supper Fund or Non-Supper Supper Fund.
- ♦ You will receive a tax receipt from Canada Helps immediately at time of donation.

**Thank you!**

**MASKS & SIGN-IN:**

It is mandatory that you wear a face mask, use the hand sanitizer and complete the sign-in form when you enter the church.



**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED.**

The secretary is working from home and email and voice mail messages are checked regularly.



***Sunday Services are available online:***

YouTube: Emmanuel United YouTube Channel

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EUCNorthBay/>

Website: <http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca/onlineservices.html>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/emmanuel\\_united](https://twitter.com/emmanuel_united)



**“Known by Our Love”**

Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring, welcoming faith community, nurturing spiritual life and sharing God's love and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.

395 Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, ON P1A 2C5

**Phone:** 705-472-1806

**Email:** [emmanuelunited@cogeco.net](mailto:emmanuelunited@cogeco.net)

**Website:** [www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca](http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/EUCNorthBay/>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/emmanuel\\_united](https://twitter.com/emmanuel_united)