



Emmanuel Newsflash

www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca

A Message From Rev. Roni

We are all hoping that 2021 will be a better year. It's January 2021, the time of year when we set long-term goals for ourselves. We try to discern more deeply God's purpose for our lives. We seek enlightenment. Orlando Pinsky in his recent book "The Gospel of Disney" suggest that we be self-aware of cultural values that are on the surface attractive but can easily mislead us.

Most of us, adults and children alike, are drawn to a good Disney movie: these movies endeavour to teach lessons and communicate values to our children and they often have some adult appeal, peppered with some humour, a love story and a heroic ending.

Disney's cultural influence is enormous: "millions of children around the world know much of what they do about the practical application of right and wrong from Disney." The "Disney gospel" is simple enough in outline: believe in yourself, never give up, good will be rewarded, pursue your dreams and evil will be punished. I am not against a good Disney flick, I just think it puts too much emphasis on the individual, on one's ability to find one's light, to pursue one's passion, to live one's dream, to win. So much pressure can cause us to crack and all of a sudden we are no longer sowing seeds of healing. The riots at the US Capital, which was experienced on Wednesday, are an example of the cracking that I have underscored. I am confident that this philosophy of personal pursuit at all costs does not align with our beliefs as followers of Jesus. We are called to serve God's dream. We are called to submit our passions to God's purpose.

It's the season of Epiphany, where God provides us with signs that points to God's active presence,

God's transforming presence-God's purpose in the world.

Our role is to serve the light, not self-actualize. A light shines for us. We are not the light. We respond to the light.

May our hearts be humbled. May our hearts be less prideful; instead may our hearts be overwhelmed by awe and wonder as we search for the light. May we be blinded by the light of compassion, justice, mercy, kindness and truth. A paraphrase of the Book of proverbs 18:15 reminds us that "an intelligent mind acquires knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Seeking leads us to a bended knee. Seeking leads us to Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Prayer:

Lord, there are times when I would not emerge winner, when I won't always get my way. I may feel disappointed. It's okay if I feel a little sad, but help me to realize above all, that I am called to serve not win. It is not about my dream, it is about your dream-your shalom. I serve your shalom. May my hurts and disappointments never overwhelm my heart so greatly, so as to inspire divisiveness and harm. You are the light of the world. I am not. I seek the light. Grant me the wisdom of a servant heart.

Amen.

**Join us for online worship only,
on Sunday January 10th.**

**Given the increase in COVID-19 cases, our
church council decided to cancel in person
worship this Sunday and the worship
committee will evaluate each week.**



Next Order of AVGEN cards is this SUNDAY January 10th

Contact Greg or Tina Wilcox gtwilcox96@gmail.com or call 705-303-4204.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Due to the ongoing provincial lock-down. Emails and voice mail is checked regularly.



MASKS & SIGN-IN:

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

In light of current events in Washington, our Moderator Richard Bott offers the following prayer:

Prayer for Our US Neighbours

As we follow our newsfeeds, and observe with horror what is happening in the capital of the United States of America, we call on you, Creator of All Love.

We painfully remember peaceful protests of tangible and documented injustices, led by Black and Indigenous peoples who were sadly met with undue hostility and violence, and characterized as rioters, in contrast to how the violent clashes incited by Trump supporters on baseless claims is being responded to and reported on.

We pray for those who are most acutely experiencing the terror caused by these actions, and those who deeply understand the hatred and racism that such acts fuel.

We call on you, Prince of Peace, and pray for your wisdom, your guidance, and your love, that those who are rioting would leave Washington, so that elected decision-makers can go back to their chambers, to the lawful work that they have been given by the people of the United States.

We pray, with all that we are, loving God.

Amen.

Moderator Richard Bott, Adele Halliday, and Alydia Smith

Sunday Services are available online:

YouTube: [Emmanuel United YouTube Channel](#)

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

Website: <http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca/online-services.html>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/emmanuel_united



Note to the Congregation ~ No Live Service on January 10th.

Happy New Year Everyone! We hope that you had a good holiday and are enjoying good health. You may already know that COVID-19 cases have increased significantly in our region over the past few days and we feel it best to be safe. Consequently, **there will be no live service of worship on Sunday January 10th and online services only** will continue for January 17, 24 and January 31 (when live service may resume). The Worship Committee, in consultation with the Music Director and minister, will decide on a weekly basis, communicate with the congregation and re-evaluate when Council convenes on January 27th. Keep well, be safe and stay connected.

Rev. Roni

"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.

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