



Emmanuel Newsflash

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A Message From Rev. Roni

Over the past few weeks, my African-Canadian colleagues in ministry, have challenged the rest of us to pray, preach and protest against racism. To date, I have prayed and I have preached. I didn't join the public protest because I have a family member whose health status is vulnerable and I couldn't risk exposure to COVID 19. However I dared to preach on racism, and I am fairly confident that I made many of you a little uncomfortable when I underscored Canada's history of racism and, personal experiences of racism. I felt vulnerable writing that sermon and it took courage to preach it. Was it appropriate? I suggest yes.

At appropriate times, the Holy Spirit makes us feel uncomfortable. The spirit can work with discomfort to transform hearts and systems. This all seems counter-intuitive, that a minister would deliberately set out to create discomfort in the hearts of hearers. If the gospel summed up in one word, is Love, then we need to expose systems that are oppressive. Rev. Al Sharpton, in his delivery of George Floyd's eulogy, calls out the murder of George, he calls out the crime and calls for a day when the price of taking a black life is the same as taking a white life. He says the consequences, as it plays out in court rooms, isn't the same, we need to strive for equal justice if we live under God's law. I am sure he made many people listening on TV and on YouTube uncomfortable.

If you aren't yet convinced that sermons create discomfort belong in church, then consider the talk Jesus gives his disciples before their first missionary endeavour.

Jesus tells them to expect discomfort. He tells them that they won't always be welcomed and that they are to shake off the hard feelings, just as you dust off your feet on a door mat and go forward. He tells them that they are going to feel vulnerable, they are going to have to depend on grace. He says they should only take what they absolutely need. Jesus goes on to say that his disciples would face harsh judgement for their beliefs and convictions. Jesus says that suffering is normative for his followers. Jesus isn't saying that is a desirable state.

Being rooted and grounded daily in God's love, being grounded in our identity as Beloved of God, helps us gracefully endure discomfort and even rejection. We emerge with character and through our perseverance, we bear witness to hope. Disciples of Jesus are to expect and accept discomfort. Jesus will never leave us, or forsake us. The holy Spirit resides in us.

This Sunday Elizabeth and Rev. Roni will be switching roles. Our worship will also feature the voice of Janie Clayton. As usual the service will be offered through YouTube and posted on Emmanuel's Facebook page.

"Zoom at Two" Friday's by teleconferencing/video conferencing. Please contact Rev. Roni if you wish to join our online conversation at: eucnbminister@gmail.com. Or leave a message at 705-472-1806.

The **"Are You Ok?"** is a telephone reassurance Program, for Seniors, who receive a daily call from a voice-activated computer program to check on their well-being.. To register please **Call 705-476-0890**.

Join us for our June 14th Sunday service which will be posted on You Tube and Facebook by 10:30am on Sunday morning.



AVENUES FOR FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING EMMANUEL'S MINISTRY AND MISSION.

- ◆ **AVGEN GIFT CARDS:** These vendor's gift cards can be used for day to day purchases such as groceries and gasoline or for occasional purchases like home improvements, electronics and much more. **NEXT ORDER IS THIS SUNDAY JUNE 14TH.**
- ◆ **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance):** With PAR your donation, with the amount of your choice, is automatically deducted from your bank account and comes directly to EUC. Even if you miss attending church from time to time, your steady financial support will still be ongoing!
- ◆ **Contribute electronically:** You can give to EUC online by using your credit card and the secure donation website called *CanadaHelps*. It is a registered, non-profit website that forwards online donations to the charity of your choice. Click on the "Donate Now" button, on our website, to begin the donation process with full easy to follow instructions. You can learn more about this organization at their website, www.canadahelps.org.
- ◆ **Another way to give to the church is by e-Transfer:** Donations to EUC through your personal online banking. Exact steps vary by individual bank, but the process is simple. Just log into your online bank account, navigate to the *Interact* e-Transfer section and follow the instructions. You will have to set up the church as a new contact. Please use email address euctreasurer@gmail.com. Your donation will go to local church expenses unless otherwise directed in your message. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda at euctreasurer@gmail.com or 705-474-2607.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Rev. Roni and John Henderson are both on holiday for the month of August.
- As approved by the M&P committee, during the month of August, the office will be closed and the hours reduced to four hours a week. Emails and Voice-mail will be checked regularly.

COVID-19 UPDATE -Premier Ford Announcement-June 8, 2020:

Effective Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., all places of worship in Ontario will be permitted to open with physical distancing in place.

HOWEVER, WE REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Please know that we are considering the future plan for the safe reopening of our Church but we are many steps away from reopening. Consultation needs to happen both with CRSC, Local Health Unit, Property Committee and Emmanuel Church Council.



Sunday Service – July and August, 2020

July: Rev. Roni and Tracy Davis will be leading the online service at St. Andrews United Church for the congregations, of St. Andrews, Trinity and Emmanuel United Church.

Rev. Ted Harrison is on vacation in July.

**During the month of July Rev. Roni will also be providing mid-week Online Reflections.*

August: Rev. Ted Harrison, Trinity United Church, will be leading the online service for the Congregations of St. Andrews, Trinity and Emmanuel United Church.

Rev. Roni and Tracy Davis will be on vacation in August.

“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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