

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you.
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6th grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine and non-alcoholic white grape juice are both offered in each communion tray.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister Pastor Mark Olsen
Worship Leader Vicar Christine Pelfrey
Assisting Minister..... Trey Hazard
Reader..... Bobbee Canfield
Communion Preparers..... Marjorie Johnson and Ellen Anderson
Director of Music Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

EMANUEL MUSICIANS

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Sarah Asmar, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard, Morgan Hunt, Kathryn Lees, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama, Hannah Maynard, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets, Austin Tewksbury, Anna VanDeBerg, Pastor Nancy Wright

AV TECHNICIANS

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives and enhance our worship.

Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone

INTRODUCTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

PRELUDE

Exploration on ‘Deo Gracias’
Emanuel Bell Choir

Jason Krug

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate One,

C: **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

L: Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever.

C: **Amen.**

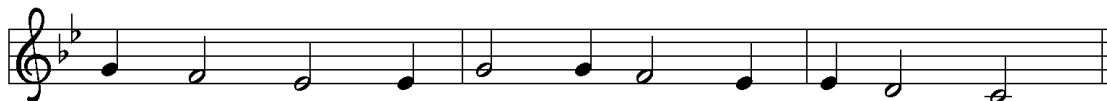
v. 1-4, 7



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:
 the Trinity whom we adore
 forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE**



Verse 1, 3 Ky - ri-e e - le-i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le-i - son.
 Verse 2 Chris - te e - le-i - son. Chris - te e - le-i - son.



Ky - ri-e e - le-i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i-son.
 Chris - te e - le-i - son. Chris - te e - le - i-son.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: God of Compassion,

C: you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The children are now dismissed for Sunday School.

PSALM 32

Sung responsively

Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the Lord. Be
glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the Lord. _____

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile! R**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt | of
my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them. R**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

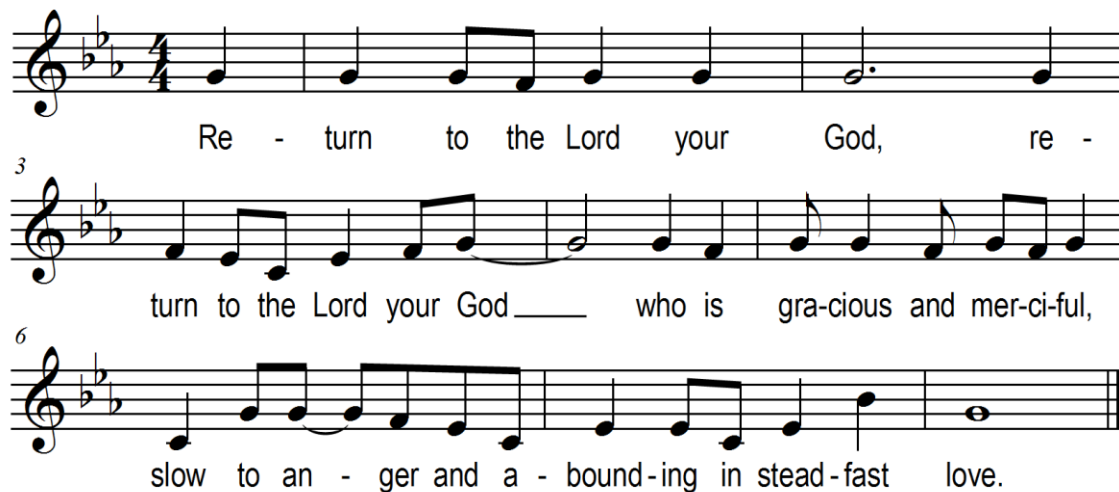
One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord your God, re -

3
turn to the Lord your God _____ who is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,

6
slow to an - ger and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Olsen

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
 Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

New Members: Laurie and Richard Granstrand
Jane and Jeff Roets
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright

Shepherds: Joyce Christianson
Kari Olsen
Shirley Leich

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: Siblings in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God’s people in this place?

R: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:

A: God in your mercy, C: **receive our prayer.**

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

We offer each other a sign of God's peace.

OFFERING MUSIC

Turn Our Captivity (Psalm 126)
Emanuel Choir

William Byrd
(1540-1623)

Turn our captivity, O Lord, as a brook in the South. They that sow in tears, shall reap in joyfulness. Going they went and wept, casting their seeds. But coming, they shall come with jollity, carrying their sheaves with them.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.*

*To make your gift online, scan the code using your
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Gracious Provider,

C: **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r, God of
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glory, Ho - san-na
in the high - est! Blest is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - - - na!
Ho - san-na in the high - - - est!

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father, 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 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,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All Are Welcome at the Table!

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.

Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.

The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

*LAMB OF GOD

Christ, thou Lamb of God, who takes a-way the
sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. grant us your peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Generous Host,

C: **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING AT THE END OF INTERNSHIP

The person whose internship is concluding and the representative(s) of the ministry site come before the assembly.

P: Vicar Christine, last April, when your internship began, we, the people of Emanuel, welcomed you to be an intern in this place: to observe, participate in, and lead in the full stretch of Gospel ministry among us. With the Gospel, you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of loved ones. You have celebrated baptisms, Confirmation, and welcoming new members with us. Sharing our joys and sorrows you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As your time of internship ends and you enter into a time of discernment and transition, this community of faith prays for God's blessing upon you.

The leader addresses the assembly.

P: People of God, members and friends of Emanuel, do you release Vicar Christine from service as your intern, to discern wherever God may call her to next?

C: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The leader addresses the person whose term is concluding.

P: Vicar Christine, do you recognize and accept the completion of your time of internship with Emanuel?

L: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Vicar Christine among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in: Bless this time of discernment and transition. You surround your people in every time and place: Keep us close in your love. You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: Prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together, heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help Vicar Christine and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you have given to us. As she has been a blessing to us, may her future ministry to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

***BLESSING**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Cry of My Heart

Refrain

It is the cry of my heart to fol - low You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You. It is the cry of my heart to fol - low all of the days of my life.

Verses

Teach me Your ho - ly ways, oh Lord, see the Op - en my eyes so I can see the so I can walk in Your truth. Teach me Your ho - ly ways, won - der - ful things that You do. Op - en my heart up more oh and Lord, and make me whol - ly de - vot - ed to You. and more and make it whol - ly de - vot - ed to You.

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God!

LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



The Emanuel Food Pantry serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated. For March, we are taking a special Ramadan collection of dates, lentils, chickpeas, basmati rice, olive oil, flour, and sugar.

BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | adminassist@emanuelhartford.org



Serve as Assisting Minister
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes
(860) 212-5492



Assist with Communion
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald
valeriexyz@cox.net
(860) 965-6936



Participate in Music
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Scan QR for more information

Read the Lessons
Contact Lynn Sherman
lynnsherman480@gmail.com
(860) 550-0518

Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

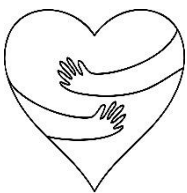
FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Host Coffee Hour
Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at moniquegray400@gmail.com.



Sponsor Altar Flowers in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.



Prayer Shawls are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Connor Mansbach † Jason Gray † Christopher Favreau † Johanna Swanson

Homebound: Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

Emanuel Lutheran Church

311 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Office: 860-525-0894 | Emergency: 860-263-9096

www.emanuelhartford.org | www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford



Pastor Mark Olsen

Senior Pastor—extension 1

pastorolsen@emanuelhartford.org

Hannah Maynard

Education Coordinator

Hannah.Maynard@emanuelhartford.org

Vicar Christine Pelfrey

Intern—extension 2

Christine.Pelfrey@emanuelhartford.org

Morgan Pope

Administrative Assistant—extension 5

adminassist@emanuelhartford.org

Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

Director of Music

Jonathan.rs@emanuelhartford.org

Rachel Blank, Natalie Fulmer, and

Maeghan O’Laughlin

Nursery Staff

Kate Bozzo

Operations Manager—extension 4

Kate.Bozzo@emanuelhartford.org

Rachid Chelali

Sexton

Naomi Ngoma

Community Life & Outreach—extension 3

Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org

Mazmur Sihite and Iman Quansah

HIU Interns 2024-2025