

Immanuel United Church
Communion Service
October 2, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

The Season of Creation is an optional season in the time after Pentecost when , people of all traditions are invited to pray and care for creation. September 1 was first proclaimed as a World Day of Prayer for Creation by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox community in 1989 and was embraced by other European churches in 2001.

The season ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, beloved by many Christian denominations. In our community we are still experiencing creation through being outdoors and enjoying the harvest of gardens and fields. In addition to marking World Wide Communion, today you will find in the service songs and prayers that celebrate the earth and its blessing. The changing of the seasons in the autumn is one of the many times we are touched by the beauty of our natural environment.

Let Us Pray:

Creator, as we move into a changing season, may we be grateful for the bounty of your world, and may our Spirits rejoice as we enter new time and new space.

AMEN.

Today we celebrate Creation singing More Voices #30 It's A Song of Praise to the Maker

Moment to Ponder:

Hugh McLennan Canadian author once wrote this

“How long O Lord, before we drop this puritanical notion that Life is a problem to be solved, and not an experience to which we are introduced at birth?”

To which I might also ask.” Is the fall a time for passive gratitude for blessings of creation that appear seemingly unbidden? Or is it also a time to gratefully

celebrate the mysterious interplay between the investment of human energy and ingenuity and natural processes of which we are only vaguely aware?

In all of life we are both receiver and participant.

Hymn: ***MV # 135 Called By Earth and Sky***

Scripture: Luke 17:5-10
2 Timothy 1:1-14

The Choir Anthem: ***Surely the Presence***

Reflection: Faith As A Mustard Seed or Something Else?

Hymn: ***MV 79 Spirit Open My Heart***

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

Look around, the creation offers its bounty. Look around, the people of God are blessed with ideas, and ingenuity, and persistence. Look around, the bounty and the blessing are there to be shared for the good of all. Let us present our offerings.

SONG: MV27 Creator God, You Gave us Life v. 3

Prayer:

Holy One, we offer the work of our hands, the love of our hearts, the abundance of creation to be shared and spent in the renewing of your world. Bless these gifts and all our lives given in your service. AMEN.

Sacrament of Communion

Song: MV#194 Bread of Life Feed My Soul

Invitation: (Paul)

Greeting:

God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to God

It is right to give God Thanks and Praise

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks and praise O Holy One
That you gather us as a community of family and friends,
You lead us into places where we are met by the spirit,
And you invite us to the banquet table where we are
Nurtured and fed by your presence in our midst.
We give thanks for the blessing of creation, the changing of seasons,
the wonder of the natural world,
And the bounty harvested from the earth.

Prayers of Intercession

Creator, we think of those of our community who experience trauma,
Residential school survivors who live with stress and express stress to those
around them, may we learn the path of reconciliation.
We pray for the people of Ukraine , the fearful, the refugees, those who
fight, and those who care for the wounded and sick. Help us not to turn
away. We pray for all whose lives have been devastated by hurricanes and
storms, may we do our part in healing and reconstruction.
We pray for those we know, the sick and the alone, those who struggle
with housing and income, those who need a friend.
may we hold all in the awareness
That they share your blessing and your grace.

Words of Institution

We are reminded in scripture, that on the night Jesus was betrayed,
he sat down for supper with his friends. He took the bread and when he
had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them and said, "this is my body
given for you
whenever you eat it remember me." After supper he took the cup and
passed it to them and said, "this is my blood, a sacrifice poured out for
you. As often as you do this,
think of me."

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

We pray you, God of love, send your Holy Spirit on us and what we do here
That these gifts, touched by your blessing, might nourish us and encourage
us on our journey together.

Lord's Prayer

The Breaking and the Pouring

The Sharing:

May this bread nourish and sustain us on our journey

AMEN

May this cup bless and refresh us as we go

AMEN

Prayer After Communion:

**Holy God, may the food of life, the friendship of this community,
and the presence of your spirit, strengthen us to share
compassion, gratitude, joy, and hope, wherever we go.
AMEN.**

Song : ***Hymn VU# 481 Sent Forth By God's Blessing***

Blessing