

Immanuel United Church

ADVENT 3

December 11, 2022

Communion Service

## **PRELUDE**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES**

Today, we acknowledge the land that we are gathered on *is Treaty 1 territory ... the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota Peoples, as well as the homeland and heart of the Metis Nation, who for thousands of years, walked gently on this land with deeply rooted gifts of spirituality, culture and ways of knowing.*

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and give thanks for the connection we share with this land – in times past and also in the present day.

Today we are called to seek a new relationship as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, creating one based on friendship, built on respect, and one that produces peace, remembering that we are **all** treaty people.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

Week 3 Joy

Come and let us build a new creation because our hearts are full of song. Our hands  
are weak and our knees are feeble but we can't stop ourselves from feeling this  
gladness so far and wide that it feels like the deserts of our uncertainty will burst  
forth  
with bright colors of joy. We find patches of brightness and moments of joy  
amidst the  
uncertainty of finding our new way.  
In the joy of this moment, our spirits rejoice.

The Mighty One does great things and there is lightness in our beings that we pray will

magnify God's work.

We need that light to shine with color and song and so today...

We light one candle to join our HOPE and our PEACE to magnify our JOY.

### **Prayer**

**With this one light we pray O God,**

**Be light along our paths,**

**Lead us to a more just world**

**And help us to stay awake**

**And present to your love**

**In each and every ordinary day. Amen.**

MV 220 'Joy shines as the solitary star'

### **Moment to Ponder:**

Hymn: VU# 23 Joy Shall Come (3x)

Scripture:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:47-55

Matthew 11:2-11

The Choir Anthem: African Advent Carol

### **REFLECTION:**

Hymn: MV# 134 There Was A Child In Galilee

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

**This is the season of Gift and of Promise, of Hope and of Joy,**

**A season of sharing and receiving, and blessing,**

**Whatever we have, whoever we are, our essence is to serve one another.**

**Prayer:**

**Holy One, in the spirit of magi and shepherds, we offer what we can. The work of our hands, the love of our hearts, the abundance of creation to be shared and spent in the blessing of your people, and the renewing of your world. Bless these gifts and all our lives given in your service. AMEN.**

**SONG: VU # 55 In the Bleak Midwinter**

**Sacrament of Communion**

Invitation:

The prophets foretold the new age of deserts bursting into bloom.

Angelic messengers brought news of the birth of a king.

Jesus gathered his disciples around the promise of a great banquet, that would nourish the whole creation.

Today, in the midst of waiting, in the process of seeking, on the journey to find out, we pause to nourish our spirits with the food of that spiritual feast.

You, We, All, are part of this meal, for it is the human journey that binds us, and the table of the Holy one that invites us.

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

Creator God, as we gather in anticipation of Jesus birth, we give thanks for the message of Hope offered by prophets and Joy brought by the angel choirs.

We are grateful for the witness of John, and the response of Mary. We celebrate the life of Jesus, breaking with the confines of tradition and convention to offer a vision of a universal banquet for all.

We celebrate the sacred mystery of Holiness born into our midst, and living among us, eating, loving, healing, teaching. We give thanks for the community of Jesus, the Church, which relives the birth, shares the stories, Cares for one another and the world, and shares the meal of remembrance when we gather around the table.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Words of Institution

Throughout his life Jesus shared meals with ordinary people. The marginalized and the outcast yes, his friends and disciples, yes, and throughout the span of history, all those who have embraced his calling and endeavoured to follow his way. We remember one such meal he ate with his disciples. He took the bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and passed it to them saying, take this and eat. This bread is the body of life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in Hope. After that, he took the cup, poured it and blessed it, and passed it to them saying, "This cup is the sign of the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember 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.

Let us unite in the words of the Jesus prayer which now we sing:

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever.  
AMEN**

The Gifts of God for the People of God

The Sharing:

May this bread nourish and sustain us on our journey

**AMEN**

May this cup bless and refresh in our searching and our serving

**AMEN**

Prayer After Communion:

God of Christmas Promise, God of faith filled Hope,  
We are grateful for the Holy mystery in which you share yourself with the  
world. May we go from here to speak your love and walk your way, the  
way of the Christ. AMEN

Hymn: MV# 120 My Soul Cries Out

Blessing

Amen (VU 974)

A-a-men, A-a-men, Hallelujah, A-a-men.

Communion Prayer adapted from a prayer by Kim Falls of Bethel Emily United Church , published in **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/ Epiphany 2017-2018, Page72. Used with permission.