

Immanuel United Church  
December 18, 2022  
Advent 4: Love

Prelude (10 mins)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Land and Affirming Acknowledgment**

Today we acknowledge the land  
That we are gathered on is Treaty 1 Territory  
The traditional lands of the Annishnaabe,  
Cree, Oji-cree, Dakota,, and Dene 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 stewardship of 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 on that produces peace,  
Remembering that we are ALL treaty people.

As we enter this time of worship,  
The rainbow candle is lit  
To symbolize and remind us  
Of the commitment that we have made

To be an inclusive and affirming community  
And that all God's people belong here.

**Lighting the Advent candles (Pat Schulz)**

Come and let us build a new creation  
Because a child will be born to us.  
Mary and Joseph will name him Jesus  
And he will be our Emmanuel.  
This child will remind us through  
All the bleakness of this world.  
That God is with us.  
Although our Advent journey is almost complete,  
We will continue on the road to  
Find our new way.  
But we carry on secure in the knowledge  
That we are never alone  
And we are always loved.  
In this moment, as the great Season of Advent  
Nears its end  
And we prepare to welcome the child  
Into the bleakest corners of our ordinary lives,  
Salvation is nearer than it has ever been.  
We need light to come into the world,  
And to never be extinguished,  
And so today,  
We light one candle to join our Hope,  
Our peace,  
Our joy,  
To open ourselves up to LOVE.

**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**

**Sung Response: MV#220 Love Shines as the Solidary Star.**

**Prayer: Now Mary Walked That Dusty Road**

Written and shared by past Moderator, the Very Reverend Richard Bott,  
posted for sharing during his term as moderator on his Facebook page.

Now Mary walked that dusty road,  
the way to Bethlehem;  
the days and nights were, oh so long,  
the cold surrounded them;  
but, with each step, she knew the day  
was coming when they both would say,  
**“Jesus, our child is born, Jesus is born;  
In excelsis Gloria!”**

Our Joseph, he kept careful watch,  
Yes, strength was in his arm;  
As hour by hour, he walked with her,  
Make sure nothing would harm  
His wife-to-be, the child-within,  
This father’s love would soon begin –  
**“Jesus, our child is born, Jesus is born;  
In excelsis Gloria!”**

You people here, now gathered round,  
Disciples of the Son,  
Open your hearts, your homes, your hands,  
To families like this one;  
Seeking a place that’s safe to live,  
God’s healing love is yours to give,  
**Jesus, the child is born, Jesus is born;**

**In excelsis Gloria!**

**Sung Response:** VU#5 All the Earth is Waiting

**Scripture:** Isaiah 7:10-16  
Matthew 1: 18-25

**Choir Anthem The Promise**  
**Goin' to Bethlehem** ~ *Jim Jost Solo*

**Reflection: On the Road to Bethlehem** (Immanuel Labyrinth Experience)

**Hymn:** VU#44      It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

**Offering**

**Offertory:** MV#191      What Can I Do?

**Offering Prayer**

**Prayer of the Community & The Prayer of Jesus**

**Hymn:** VU#8 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Extroit:** MV#220      Love Shines as the Solidary Star.