

Immanuel United Church
Communion Service
January 8, 2023
Epiphany (Baptism of Jesus) Stewardship Sunday

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES (slide)

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.

As we enter this time of worship,

We Acknowledge the Christ Candle, marking the presence of light in our midst, and the Rainbow Candle, symbolizing that we are an inclusive and affirming community, and all belong here.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Bob Kenyon Introducing Stewardship)

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

An Epiphany is an insight, a moment of awareness, it may come suddenly like the switch of a lightbulb, or more slowly, like the emergence of the dawning sun. Through the season of Advent we have been searching for an Epiphany, are we closer? Perhaps. What possibilities have we glimpsed?

Let Us Pray: (slide)

**Holy one, open our eyes to see the wonder of Christ emerging in our midst.
Open our ears to hear the glory of Angel songs, open our minds to know your**

presence filling every moment, open our hands to embrace one another and share the gift and delight of this day, and every day.

AMEN

Hymn: VU# 82 A Light Is Gleaming (slide)

Moment to Ponder:

For the next several weeks we are going to be talking Stewardship. Now I don't have to tell you that stewardship is not only about money, and not only about the church. Frederick Beuchner, a noted American Presbyterian preacher and author wrote,

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.”

— Frederick Buechner, [Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC](#)

Or to put it another, less elegant way, we can make the greatest difference at the intersection of passion and need. And perhaps it all starts with Gratitude.

Let's join in singing the Hymn Grateful.

Hymn: MV #182 Grateful (slide)

Scripture:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

The Choir Anthem: (slide)

REFLECTION:

Hymn: VU#87 I Am the Light of the World (slide)

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 gift and the blessing are there to be shared for the good of all. Let us present our offerings.

SONG: VU# 542 We Give You But Your Own

Prayer: (slide)

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: VU# 96 Will You Come and See the Light (vs. 1-2) (slide)

Invitation: (Paul)

Greeting: (slide)

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, we give you thanks and Praise that you draw us into the light of Christmas, and that light continues to spread throughout the ages, and throughout the world.

We give thanks for the inspiration and insight that surrounds us as we walk in your presence, seeking your guidance, and offering our lives in service to your world and your people.

We give thanks that you surround us with a community of family and friends, and that you nurture us and feed us at this your table of blessing.

Prayers of Intercession

Creator, we pray for the world,

we remember the victims of war,

We think of those who stand up against oppression, i

We hold those who are hungry, in Pakistan and in North Africa and in our own community.

We pray for the participants at the world climate conference, politicians, scientists, educators and activists.

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 (Paul)

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 Spirit on us and what we do here
That these gifts, touched by your blessing, might nourish us and sustain
us on our journey together.

AMEN.

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, (slide)

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 (slide)

AMEN

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

AMEN

Prayer After Communion: (slide)

**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# 96 Will You Come and See the Light (vs. 3-5) (slide)

Blessing

Amen (VU 974) (slide)

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