

Immanuel United Church
Communion Service
February 5th, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

***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

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

Epiphany – Sermon on the Mount Salt and Light

Let Us Pray:

**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

Moment to Ponder:

Hymn: VU# 356 Seek Ye First

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Matthew 5:13-20

The Choir Anthem: **Come Be Fed**

REFLECTION:

Hymn: VU# 585 Jesus Bids Us Shine

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:

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# 457 As We Gather At Your Table

Invitation:

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, you fill our hearts with the abundance that surrounds us. We see the whiteness of sun on snow, the light that changes the world around us. We hear birdsong that enlivens our spirit.

We are grateful for the challenge to serve, the gift of friends, the possibility present in each new day, open our arms to embrace all that we are and all we have.

Prayers of Intercession

*Holy God, we pray for the world, that violence is done between your children, that we abuse your creation, that fear and resentment rule our relationships. Hear our prayer, **AMEN.***

*Holy God, we pray for the church. We wonder what the future holds, We seek new ways to serve, Hear our prayer, **AMEN***

*Holy God, we pray for our community. For those who are fearful or alone, for those who hunger, for food, for friends, for care. We pray for those who are ill, and those who have died. Hear our Prayer, **AMEN***

*We pray for ourselves, for imagination to face the challenges of life, for courage when we are discouraged, for rest when we are weary. Hear our prayer, **AMEN.***

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 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,
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:

**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.**

Hymn: VU#575 I'm Going To Live So God Can Use Me

Blessing

May light burst forth within you, may the light of the Christ always guide you,
May Grace be revealed in all Glory and give you peace!

Amen (VU 974)

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