

Immanuel United Church  
April 9, 2023  
Easter Sunday

Prelude

## **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 Anishnaabe,  
Cree, Oji-cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples,  
As well as the homeland and heart  
Of the Red River Metis people,  
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.*

## **Opening Hymn: VU#155 Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

### **Call To Worship:**

At the first light of dawn,  
The women went to the graveside.

**Are not our hearts burning within us?**

And there they found... nothing?

**Are not our hearts lighted with fire?**

An empty tomb!

The grave clothes lying on the ground!

Where is Jesus?

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

**Hallelujah!**

### **Opening Prayer:**

God, we are awestruck at the mystery of Easter,  
Caught up in the celebration of the Resurrection Story.

**Christ is risen!**

The quietness of our Lenten journey  
Is all but forgotten in the miracle of today.

**Christ is risen!**

God, help us to learn what this story means to us,  
To figure out how the Easter story  
Calls us to new life.

**Christ is risen!**

Fill our hearts, minds and lives, we pray,  
With the celebration and mystery of Easter.

**Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

**Hymn: MV#121 Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**

### **Lessons from the Wilderness**

We have completed our Lenten journey and arrived at Easter.  
However we have one more Lesson from the Wilderness for today.

Our first word today is Fear. There is a lot of fear in our world today.  
Crime, inflation, climate change, homelessness. On a more personal level,  
we may fear for the health of our family and friends. We may fear the future

and the unknown challenges that it brings. We may fear making the wrong decisions on where to go or what to do so that we become paralyzed by our fears.

What better way to overcome fear than by Love? Many years ago, Dr. James Christie led a service here and in his sermon said: "There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less." God's love is so vast and so constant that it can help make our fears more manageable. Despite our imperfections, God loves us and showed us that love by giving Jesus to the world. Thanks be to God.

Let us pray:

**Holy One**

**During this time of Lent, open our eyes and hearts to your beautiful world that surrounds us. Help us to trust that following your way is the path that best serves us and others. Lead us as we venture into the unknown. Help us to continue in the spirit of inclusivity that you modeled for us. Strengthen our connection to you and to others. Let our faith in you continue to grow. Let us be both humble and strong in continuing your work in the world. Just like you Love us, let us Love others. Amen.**

**Prayer:**

**During this time of Lent,  
Open our eyes and hearts to your beautiful world  
That surrounds us.  
Help us to trust that following your way  
Is the path that best serves us and others.  
Lead us as we venture into the unknown.  
Help us to continue in the spirit of inclusivity  
That you modeled for us.  
Strengthen our connection to You and to others.  
Let our faith in you continue to grow.  
Let us be both humble and strong  
In continuing your work in the world.  
Just like you Love us, let us Love others.  
Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

**Scripture: Matthew 28: 1-10**

**Choir Anthem Our Savior is Alive**

**Reflection:**

**Hymn: VU#166 Joy Comes with the Dawn**

**Offering**

**Offertory: VU#179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks**

**Offering Prayer**

**Celebrating Communion**

Do not be afraid!..

...by the hand of the Risen Christ.

***Thanksgiving***

When we do not understand,

**we gather by this table.**

When mystery stretches ever wider,

**we break bread.**

When the wonder is more than our souls can hold,

**We share the cup.**

Hallelujah, thanks and praise...

...to sing your praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes,**

**the one who comes in God's name.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

On Thursday...

...together the mystery of our faith:

**Christ had died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

Holy Spirit...

...God most holy, now and forever.

Let the people say "amen."

Let us lift all our prayers to God,  
speaking the words taught by Jesus:

**Our Father...**

*Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup*

**Prayer after Communion:**

**Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children may be free to know resurrection. We pray in the name of the Risen One. Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU#167      Christ is Risen from the Dead

**Commissioning and Benediction**