

Immanuel United Church  
World Wide Communion Sunday  
October 1, 2023

## **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 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 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**

This is the time of year that summer transitions to fall. For our farming neighbours it is the time of harvest. When we look to the creation it is a time of dramatic change as in our hemisphere the earth begins to prepare for the coming of winter. I find this time of year a bit wistful, nostalgic even as I delight in seeing friends again and beginning new routines. What changes will the coming season bring? What are the things that endure through all changes?

Let us pray:

**Holy One,**

**The seasons turn. Fall colours strike our senses. Birds and animals prepare for winter changes. We, your human creatures prepare for new work, new discipleship. Bless us as we let go of summer, and embrace this new time. In Jesus name we pray,**

**AMEN**

HYMN: VU# 223 Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing to Your Praise

### **MOMENT TO PONDER**

Again today we hear from the story of the biblical exodus. For us, moving from one place to another in our personal and church lives, exodus is a metaphor, a story that connects with parts of what we are seeing and feeling. We know from events of this summer that exodus is less a metaphor than a reality for many. Hundreds fled wildfires this summer, moving from place to place. Many found they had no home to return to. This week the world heard that 65,000 Armenian residents of Nagorno-Karabakh (an island in the nation of Azerbaijan) were fleeing their homes and did not know where they were going. If that were not enough, the southern United States is bracing for greater pressure from refugees coming to its Mexican border.

The fears of homelessness, hunger, and uncertainty are all too real for many in our world.

Likewise, for many, shortage of clean drinkable water is more than a metaphor. Anyone who travels, plans to carry enough water for immediate needs if they can. Yet droughts for crops, livestock and people are becoming more prevalent.

Metaphor is a powerful way to understand and use our experience. Let us not forget those for whom the metaphor is all too real and all too devastating.

**HYMN:** MV# 87 Water Flowing From the Mountains

### **SCRIPTURE:**

Exodus 17:1-17

Matthew 21:23-32

**ANTHEM:** "If We Truly Believe "

### **REFLECTION:**

HYMN: VU# 690 From the Slave Pens of the Delta

## **OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER**

We have been blessed with the richness of summer and growth. As we approach the time of harvest let us be grateful for all that we have become, and generous to share what we are and what we have with the world so all may be blessed.

### **Doxology MV# 182 "Grateful"**

**Let us Pray:**

**Creator, God, by our actions and our trust may the world know that we belong to you, and serve you, and dedicate our lives to you, now and always. Receive what we offer, hands, heart, treasure, in concert with your people around the world, so all may know Grace and Peace.**

**AMEN**

HYMN: VU# 477 I Come With Joy

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation:**

Greeting:

God be with us.

**God is here among us**

Let us open our hearts to God.

**We open them to God and to each other**

Creator, you separated land from water to create the skies and seas and to make a home for all people.

**We live on the land first called Turtle Island.**

You created cycles of life that would sustain all creatures.

**Through our faith traditions, you offered us stories that teach us to care for each other and for the earth.**

But we let you down, Holy One. Instead of sharing the earth and its resources, we put Systems in place that hurt your people and creation.

**You sent your son to live among us, and bring us back to you.**

Jesus assured us of your forgiveness and love.

**When he returned to you, Jesus sent the Spirit to help us bring your reign on earth as it is in heaven.**

We share in communion with Christians around the world today, to remember your hope for all creation!

## 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."

**God of life, with this bread and juice, we remember your son Jesus and pray we will come to know him in new and deeper ways.**

We await with hope Jesus' coming again to restore the earth, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Send your spirit on us and what we do here,  
That touched by your spirit, we and these gifts  
May be signs of life to one another, and to the world,  
**AMEN.**

Let us unite in the words of the Jesus prayer:

## 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**

**Come, for all is now ready.**

Prayer After Communion:

**Holy God, may the food of life, the fellowship of the church in the world, and the presence of your spirit, strengthen us to share compassion, gratitude, joy, and hope, wherever we go.**

**AMEN.**

Hymn: VU# 606 In Christ There Is No East or West

**Blessing**

**Amen (VU 974) A-a-men, A-a-men, Hallelujah, A-a-men.**