

**Immanuel United Church
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 17, 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 the 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,

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.

And the Christ candle is present

pointing to the presence of God's spirit guiding our lives always.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

Today we hear about another stage in the Hebrew's journey out of Egypt towards a new future. We will look for parallels in our own lives and our world today.

Let us pray:

Holy One, grant us enthusiasm, and delight, as we look for change in the coming days. Give us courage and resilience as we face challenges that may come our

way. Mostly, may we experience Joy and Hope as we live and work in your presence.

Amen.

HYMN: VU# 232 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

MOMENT TO PONDER:

Do you feel like things are getting back to normal? I'd like to think so. But when I look around I see change wherever I look. Eight or nine new United Church ministers, five in the North East alone, and at least four more congregations looking to be part of new partnerships, and that's just in Winnipeg. Many ideas about how we can navigate the changes facing us, but the advice is not always consistent. An election is coming up in a few weeks that promises change no matter who you vote for. There may be a resurgence of Covid. We could be facing a winter of hardship for many, and many of us are still having trouble talking civilly with people with whom we disagree on key issues.

I'm thinking we better prepare ourselves for some challenges, and seize joy and delight wherever we can find it.

Let's join to sing an old hymn that has its roots in the exodus story.

HYMN: VU# 421 Lead On O Cloud of Presence

SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 14:19-31

Matthew 18:21-35

CHOIR ANTHEM: Shine, Jesus Shine

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 578 As A Fire Is Meant for Burning

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

We are a people blessed and gifted. As we have received, so let us share, our lives, our talents, our living, so we might be part of a transformed world, and become transformed people.

Doxology VU# 538 For the Gift of Creation

Let us Pray:

Creator God, Bless the gifts we offer, so all we are and all we have might be multiplied and shared, for the blessing of all creation. AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG VU#959)

HYMN: MV# 135 Called By Earth and Sky

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

A-a-men, A-a-men, Hallelujah A-a-men!

POSTLUDE