

Immanuel United Church
Communion Sunday
September 10, 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

Welcome back! It is good to be reconnecting as a community. I look forward to hearing what we have been thinking, learning, planning. Some who were part of our community are not with us. Glen McIvor, Paul Campbell, and others. This year will be different without them. The Exodus passage begins “this month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.”

We too are in a time of new beginnings and big changes. Welcome back! It is better when we can face the future together.

Let us pray:

Holy One,

AMEN

HYMN: VU# 395 Part of the Family

MOMENT TO PONDER

It seems serendipitous that Jesus discourse on disputes and disagreements in the church comes just as we in our community embark on a new election.

Conversation, discernment, disagreement, will be part of our lives for the next few weeks. Let's remember that our work to shape a just community and society does not end with the ballot but requires ongoing diligence and action.

Likewise, our work to reshape the future of our Faith community does not end when we have expressed an opinion about direction but continues, as we work to create the future to which we believe we are called, and trust in God's Spirit to guide us when we might feel lost. Ancient peoples would sing in moments of loss and despair, calling on the Spirit to offer guidance.

HYMN: MV# 142 A Song Must Rise

SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 12:1-14

Matthew 18:15-20

REFLECTION:

VU# 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

We bring our gifts, ourselves, our strengths, our weakness, and our needs. All that we have and all that we are is a blessing to be shared.

Doxology MV# 182 "Grateful"

Let us Pray:

**Creator, God, bless what we offer,
Gifts shared, Lives given in service, hands and feet dedicated,
Community of Faith inspired, to make the world a place of Hope and Joy.
AMEN**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

ANTHEM: "We Gather at Your Table Lord"

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

Holy God of work, and play, and rest. We give thanks for the Fall. Your community gathers like wind from the corners of the earth. Relationships rekindle, ideas spark, plans take shape.

Your spirit renews the community of Faith, guiding us into a time of new possibilities.

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

Prayers of Intercession

Holy God, we pray for the people of Yellowknife, as they return home to put lives back together. We remember all who continue to face fires, and for all who have been touched with unspeakable sadness and loss. Let your peace and love touch us all as we hold all who suffer in our hearts.

Hear our prayer,

AMEN.

Holy God, we have seen a summer of heat and flood, of drought, and storm. We pray for our world that teeters on the brink of catastrophe. We pray for those who suffer through war and famine, dislocation and distress. We pray for those with whom we disagree. May respect and love rule all our relationships.

Hear our prayer,

AMEN

Holy God, we pray for our community. We give thanks for all the special people among us who have blessed us with their unique gifts and presence. We pray 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. We pray today for Kerry LaRocque and Glenn Nicholls in hospital, and for Glen McIvor, a member of our community who shared his gifts with grace and care. May his Spirit rest in Peace.

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. For delight and awe to be part of this Wondrous creation, and for the blessing of facing this new time together,

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

Come, for all is now ready.

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# 595 We Are Pilgrims

Blessing

Amen (VU 974)

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