

Immanuel United Church  
Covenanting Service  
October 15, 2023  
2:00 p.m.

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 nonindigenous 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.***

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

We joyfully gather to mark a new ministry relationship in Prairie to Pine Regional Council between Immanuel United Church and Paul DuVal. We welcome all who are a part of our wider community, including representatives of neighbouring congregations , and members of the regional council. Today we commit to and celebrate how we are the church together.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

This time of “making covenant” is another milestone on our congregation’s journey to define a new future for our life and ministry. As we open hearts, minds, and spirits, to the moving of God’s guidance, let us embrace the promise and the challenge of this part of our journey.

Let us join in singing Spirit Open My Heart.

**HYMN:** MV# 79 Spirit Open My Heart

### **OPENING PRAYER:**

Creator, Holy mystery, we gather as people who have known your grace and your guidance. We open our hearts to your presence, and we place our future in your care. Be with us in our praying, in our singing, in our imagining, and in our creating. Bless the gifts each of us bring, and the covenant that we make together. We pray in Jesus name.

AMEN

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Friends, we are one in Christ! The Peace of Christ, who unites us in love and discipleship, be with you all!

**And also with you!**

Let us greet one another with signs of peace!

**SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 7:14; 11:1-9**

**ANTHEM:** Psalm 23

**SERMON**

**HYMN:** VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

### **COVENANTING**

Statement of Living Faith Story

In 2020 Immanuel United Church had to recognize that changing times, notable decline in financial and human resources made it clear we needed to Look Ahead and find a new way of being the church. Part of this journey includes reaching out to our neighbourhood United Churches, and part was to find a minister with the qualities we need to guide us along the unknown pathways into the future. We did our soul searching and praying. We put out the call for help using these words describing who we hoped to find:

We are looking for a minister, rooted in liberal theology and social justice; one who offers strong worship leadership with story-telling skills which provide wisdom and strength in challenging and changing times. He/she trusts the wisdom of the lay leadership of the congregation and works in partnership with the church staff, recognizing that we are all in this ministry together. He/she extends a compassionate and inclusive welcome to all.

We at Immanuel were privileged to have made Rev Paul DuVal's acquaintance last year when he agreed to share ministry between us and Fort Garry United. We got to know each other and found out how very well Paul answered our prayers. Needless to say we were all thrilled when Paul threw his hat into the ring for this year's one year supply ministry here.

You see Paul is rooted in liberal theology and social justice. This is evident in the very hymns he so thoughtfully chooses each week to highlight the succinct and inspiring worship services he gives us. He skillfully weaves bible stories in and out of current affairs mixed with his own stories so that one usually comes away feeling fulfilled and

more at peace than when one came to worship. He is more than respectful of staff and lay leadership, he is supportive and thoughtful. Paul is a kind and compassionate man. Where he truly shines, however is in the myriad ways he leads us into facing and dealing with the inevitable changes to come in our church. Paul actively, willingly takes part in all of our "Looking Ahead" meetings and gatherings and offers his wisdom rooted in experience in many helpful ways. Using scripture and prayers each Sunday he connects our challenges and the changes we face with similar biblical events thereby consoling and guiding us all at once.

I am blessed to speak on behalf of Immanuel to say that we are grateful you chose to help us on our journey Paul, and we look forward to the months ahead benefiting from your ministry and leadership.

#### Statement of this New Ministry

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Paul DuVal, Immanuel United Church, and the wider United Church as represented by Prairie to Pine Regional Council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to Faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

After prayerful discernment, and the approval of the Immanuel United Church, we present Paul DuVal, who has been called to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in Immanuel United Church. We believe that his skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.

Paul, you are here in response to the call of Immanuel United Church and Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry. Paul you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this place. You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join with Paul in worship, study, prayer and action. We, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry. Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

#### Prayer of Faith

Uniting God, you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship: to celebrate your presence, to live with respect in creation, to be your servants in the service of others, to seek justice and resist evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. Send your holy spirit to bind us in full communion so that we may be a uniting church embodying your love for the world. As one we proclaim: in life, in death, in life beyond death, you are with you, we are not alone, all glory and power be unto you. Amen.

**HYMN:** VU# 625 I Feel the Winds of God Today

### **Promises of the New Minister**

Paul, do you in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with Immanuel United Church?

I do.

Will you accept the guidance of Prairie to Pine Regional Council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of Immanuel United Church?

I will.

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

I will.

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

I will.

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

I will.

### **Promises of the Community of Faith**

Will you join with Paul in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within Immanuel United Church, Prairie to Pine Regional Council and within the wider church?

**We will.**

Will you support them as they serve among you in this ministry?

**We will.**

### **Promises of the Regional Council**

Will you, as members of Prairie to Pine Regional Council and members of the wider community, join with Paul and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

**We will.**

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

**We will.**

### **Presentation of Symbols**

Bible – Take this Bible. Be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word.

Amen!

Bread and Cup – Be with us as we all are fed by the gifts of God. Amen!

Flashlight – Take this flashlight, and be with us as one who shines a light on the unknown paths into the future of Immanuel.

Regional pin

Paul and Immanuel United Church, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community. Amen!

New Minister's Prayer

Response to the Covenant – Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made!

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**HYMN:** MV# 213 Take Up His Song

Blessing

Sung blessing – The Lord Bless you and Keep You (VU#965)

Postlude