

Immanuel United Church

October 29, 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 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

As harvest draws to a close, and the first hint of winter touches the land, two cultural events converge. One a kind of playful celebration that links the place of living, and the place where the spirits of those past dwell. You know, of course I am talking about All Hallows Eve where in very ancient times spirits walked the land, and the living placated them with morsels of food from the recent harvest. The Christian Church adopted and reinterpreted that celebration as a memorial to "The Saints", to the ancestors in the faith who passed on the teachings and the traditions to us, and continue to be with us in memory, in tradition, and in the legacy they have left.

Let us pray:

Holy One, help us to remember that we are the inheritors of a long tradition of trust and hope. May we honour teachers, and story tellers, caregivers and builders, all those who entrusted their legacy to us to nurture and to share. In the wisdom of the grandmothers and the grandfathers may we find courage and Peace. AMEN

You might have been expecting to sing “For All the Saints”, “Give Thanks for Life” has the same tune, and slightly different lyrics... let’s sing

Hymn : VU# 706 Give Thanks for Life

MOMENT TO PONDER:

“In the words of journalist Nicholas Kristoff: “If we owe a moral responsibility to Israeli children, then we owe the same moral responsibility to Palestinian children. Their lives have equal weight.” And “If you care about human life only in Israel or only in Gaza, then you don’t actually care about human life.”

It’s true in the Middle East and many other venues, articulate proponents urge us to Choose, to take sides with those who are in the right. Sometimes that task is easy, mostly choosing between people or interests is hard. Sometimes the right choice is not to choose, to lift up “both/and”.

Sometimes it seems common sense to side with the “victims”, or the most “reasonable”, or the ones “most like us”. Jesus told stories that challenged common sense, including one that answered the question “who is my neighbour?” These are not easy choices and we have made many mistakes in the past.

There is a hymn based on Psalm 90 that is a prayer for wisdom and help in times of conflict.

Let’s sing O God Our Help in Ages Past.

HYMN: VU# 806 O God Our Help In Ages Past

SCRIPTURE:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Matthew 22:34-46

CHOIR ANTHEM: Behold the Beauty

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 603 In Loving Partnership

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

We are a people blessed and gifted. Our forebears shared courage and wisdom and hope as they built this church and this community. As we have benefited from their sacrifice, so let us share, our lives, our talents, our living, so our legacy might shape the world that is coming to be.

Doxology VU# 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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 welfare of all your children and the whole creation. AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG VU#959)

HYMN: MV# 120 My Soul Cries Out

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE