

**Immanuel United Church
Thanksgiving Sunday
October 8, 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

It's Thanksgiving. A festival of abundance, of harvest, of community, and significantly, of gratitude. May we be moved to reach out, to share, to connect with others, to offer hope.

Let us pray:

Holy One, We are well fed. And we are grateful for that. We have homes, and we give thanks to you. Our journey requires us to be caring, to share food with the hungry, to house those who have no home, to be with the sick and the lonely. Grant us the humility to know that we are blessed by Grace and the willingness to share love with all we meet.

Amen.

HYMN: VU# 245 Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

MOMENT TO PONDER:

We are surrounded by reminders of the wealth of creation. Yet if we look carefully we know we are surrounded by signs of poverty.

Life is filled with experiences of goodness and possibility. It is also filled with loss, destruction and despair. As a community that has experienced much loss in our journey, you know that all the experiences of life are contained in the wisdom that graces later years.

Thanksgiving can be a festival merely celebrating the delights of life in spite of the pain. Or, it can be a time to acknowledge and be grateful for all of life, all that makes us what we are.

HYMN: VU# 227 For the Fruit of All Creation

SCRIPTURE:

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

CHOIR ANTHEM: Give Thanks

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 516 Come, You Thankful People, Come

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 MV# 191 What Can I Do

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# 185 Every Day Is A Day of Thanksgivings

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE