

Immanuel United Church November 19, 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

For those of us who follow the liturgical or church calendar today is for us the last Sunday of the year. Because of quirks of the secular calendar we will be beginning our Advent season next week. That makes this Sunday, for us, the Reign of Christ Sunday. It's a perplexing time for we progressive, science based, Christians, to contemplate Jesus second coming outside of normal history, to usher in a new era of Peace and Justice. This Weary World longs for a new regime that we can't quite see yet. So we continue to live in Hope and Trust.

Let us pray:

Creator, in a world weary of war and death we long to see with the eyes of Christ the possibility of a new age of peace and delight. Prod us to keep searching, imagining, hoping, and creating change even when we can't see clearly the way forward.

AMEN

Hymn: MV# 163 River Running in You and Me

MOMENT TO PONDER:

When I look to the future I worry. Will people of wisdom take charge in the Middle East? Can we adapt to climate change in a way that the most vulnerable can survive? Is there a way that we as a community can provide warm shelter for all who need it? It's my hope and in some ways a conviction, that the Spirit of the Christ will break into our world in ways that will offer us a vision of how to live differently and create new possibilities for everyone.

HYMN: VU# 356 Seek Ye First the Kingdom

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 25:31-46

CHOIR ANTHEM: Hearth and Fire

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 647 Travel On, Travel On

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

Doxology VU# 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Let us Pray:

Jesus, we offer our gifts to make real your coming reign upon the earth. We offer also ourselves. Fit us for your service, empower us by your Spirit, to be a blessing to our neighbours and the world.

AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG VU#959)

HYMN: VU# 703 In the Bulb There Is A Flower

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE