

Immanuel United Church
Communion Sunday
November 5, 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

In today's story, the wandering people of Israel prepare to cross the Jordan River, and enter the promised Land. It is the culmination of years of wandering, and also prelude to years of getting settled. It is a story from which we today can glean many lessons yet some of them are cautionary lessons.

Let us pray:

Holy One,

Change is all around us. Open our hearts to the future that is coming to be in our midst, and may your spirit lead us in our living and in our acting. AMEN

HYMN: MV #12 Come Touch Our Hearts

MOMENT TO PONDER (Remembrance)

Next Saturday we will mark Remembrance Day. It is a day to mourn the sacrifices made by Armed services, families, and nations, during wars since 1914. Sometimes it seems like we have not learned anything. Again the world is embroiled in war. Hatred lashes out at our tribe, and vengeance is meted out in return. The quest for political gain is cloaked in deception and lies. Innocent human beings are “dehumanized” so they can be treated without respect. We act like there are “good people” and “terrorists”, but no one is completely innocent.

HYMN: VU# 527 God! As With Silent Hearts

SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 3:7–17

Matthew 23:1–12

ANTHEM: Give Us Peace

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 678 For the Healing of the Nations

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

HYMN: VU# 467 One Bread, One Body

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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

God of blessing and promise, We give thanks for your presence in our midst.

In times of challenge, you are our strength.

In time of fear you are our courage.

We give thanks for the gift of faith, and for those who walk this journey with us.

Prayers of Intercession

Creator God, our community is not whole; the realm is not peaceful.

Many still hunger and thirst,

Many still hurt,

Many are still captive.

We pray for a world that is broken, for children who have died, for people who are hungry.

We pray for compassion, for understanding, most of all we pray for hope,

May it guide our believing and our living.

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:

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# 684 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Blessing

Amen (VU 974)

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

Postlude