

Immanuel United Church
November 26, 2023
“A Weary World Rejoices”

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org | 2

How does a weary world hope?

By telling stories of hope,

by lighting candles in the night,

and planting seeds in the winter that

will bloom in the spring.

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

Hymn : Light Dawns on a Weary World

MOMENT TO PONDER:

This week we saw a glimmer of Hope in the War in Gaza. The agreement to release hostages, and pause fighting is a positive sign, but it is not necessarily a turning point.

In a world weary of war we wait for good news wherever we might find it and hold on to the possibility that it might mean change is coming. Is it divine intervention? Or a realization that more death benefits no one? Is it a growing awareness that we can't bomb our way to Peace?

As we enter this season of Advent are we facing the end of history? Or the coming of a new awareness that we must learn to live together.

It's not clear! Therefore we live in Hope.

HYMN: VU# 25 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Mark 13: 24-37

CHOIR ANTHEM: Look-A That Star

REFLECTION:

HYMN: MV# 20 God of Still Waiting

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

As our Hearts wait, let our hands reach out, sharing the blessings of our world and offering the love of Christ. Let us present our offerings.

Doxology MV# 182 Grateful

Dedication Prayer

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 # 44 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

BLESSING:

How does a weary world rejoice?
Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE