

Immanuel United Church
Advent 3
December 10, 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)

How does a weary world practice joy?

By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

**By telling the story of Jesus, and
showing up for our community.**

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

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

Hymn : Light Dawns on a Weary World

MOMENT TO PONDER:

December 6th remembers a tragic event where 14 women, all engineering students were murdered at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989. Much more recently our country has become aware of the vulnerability of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Contrast this with the nation a century ago which pioneered giving women the vote, and defining women as persons in their own right; Or the front page of Wednesdays Free Press which featured Christine Sinclair on her career as arguably the world's most enduring soccer player.

We live in the midst of ongoing failures to change the prejudices of our culture, and hopefully we also dream dreams about how our society can change and include those who have been ignored.

Advent is a time for dreaming. What might be possible if we dream together?

HYMN: MV#158 Dream A Dream

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

John 1:6-8, 19-28

CHOIR ANTHEM: When Will He Come?

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 82 A Light Is Gleaming

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

The gift of this season is a gift of Holy Presence.

May we offer, May we share, may we be a gift of Holy presence

Hymn: VU# 68 All Poor Ones and Humble (Vs. 1 and Refrain)

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 # 46 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

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