

Immanuel United Church

December 3, 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 peace?

By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

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

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

Hymn: Light Dawns on a Weary World

MOMENT TO PONDER:

This week the 28th United Nations Conference on Global Climate change begins amid the warmest November and December we can remember. Tension in the Middle East continues. In our own community there are a flurry of conversations among our neighbouring congregations about how we might work together in the future.

In the midst of a season that already takes up a lot of energy it would be easy to throw up our hands and say it's too hard, we have no control.

That's when we can take permission to pause, and wait, and watch. To see more clearly what we can't control, and what we can. Where more effort will bear fruit, and where we need to stop and listen.

Advent might become a place where wisdom grows, and insight and awareness increase.

HYMN: VU# 5 All Earth Is Waiting

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

REFLECTION:

HYMN: “We Wait for God” Words copyright 2023 William Kervin

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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

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

We have prepared ourselves to share Jesus supper, by coming together in this place, by opening ourselves to the word that addresses our Spirit, let us now join our hearts and minds in prayer

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

Words of Institution

We do what Jesus did the night before he died.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread,
And gave it to his friends, and said,
“Take, eat; remember me.”
Then he took the cup, and said,
“Take, drink; remember.”

Prayer for the Spirit

We pray you God of Love ,
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here,
That we, and these gifts,
Touched by your spirit,
May be signs of life and love to each other,
And to all the world. AMEN

Sharing

May this bread sustain you on the journey

AMEN

May this cup revive your Spirit

AMEN

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 Hope, Peace, Joy, and
Love, wherever we go.

AMEN.

HYMN: VU# 18 There's a Voice In the Wilderness Calling

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