

Immanuel United Church
January 14, 2024
Stewardship Season

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

Stewardship, or the care of resources, is rooted in our giftedness as human beings. Human life, or a life of Faith, or vocation, is complex. But I think, at the risk of over-simplifying, it can be boiled down to two things: Identity, who we are, and for a people of faith, to whom we belong. And the second is what we do. What is it that we are uniquely qualified to do? Again at the risk of oversimplifying, as a church we do one of two things. We build communities with roots and permanence, and traditions, and norms. Or we go on a pilgrimage a journey searching for a new way, a new opportunity. Both tasks are worthy and good in their own time. Today in 55 or so minutes we are going to explore both in words and music.

Let us pray:

Creator, teach us how to build communities of truth and justice, and compassion, and caring. Teach us how to seek Hope and promise, as we journey into an unknown future. Teach us what we can carry and should carry wherever we go. And teach us to let go of things too heavy for your realm. In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

Our first Hymn is Let Us Build A House

Hymn : MV#1 Let Us Build a House

MOMENT TO PONDER:

Some of you will know that one of my daughters was evacuated last spring during the first wave of wildfires in West Central Alberta. It all turned out well, but you won't be surprised to hear that when I visited at Christmas, there was concern that there was not much snow, and they feared another dry spring. Snow like we received this past week closes roads and schools, and creates inconvenience and hazard. Yet it replenishes our water and makes life possible.

We who live in a river city, know how rivers contribute to commerce and travel and yes recreation and fun. They are also metaphors for things that flow through our community, ideas, good will, communication, spirit. Water, and particularly rivers make a powerful lens through which we understand our lives and communities. Let's sing River Running.

HYMN: MV#163 River Running

SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Be Still and Know"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: MV# 161 I Have Called You By Your Name

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

There is a Spirit that moves in our midst inviting us to share who we are and what we have. Let us take a moment to indulge that spirit and open ourselves to offer what we are able.

Doxology **MV# 182 Grateful (chorus)**

Let us Pray:

**Holy One, bless the gifts we share and the hope we hold so
our community and world might be transformed by your
Grace.**

AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (spoken)

VU# 916 First Alternate "Our Father-Mother who is in the heavens"

HYMN: VU# 639 One More Step

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE