

**Immanuel United Church**  
**January 28, 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 Spirit candle is present pointing to the presence of God's spirit guiding our lives always.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER**

Step by step the season of Epiphany logs the increasing visibility of Jesus. He is revealed to the Magi as a child of important birth. He is introduced and baptized by John, driven to the wilderness to be tempted. Gathering around him a band of disciples, he begins to preach the reign of God. Slowly his purpose comes into view. He gathers around him allies, supporters, learners. And he begins to

challenge those who stand in his way. And we have a choice. On which side do we stand.

Let us pray:

**Holy One, teach us your way through story and song, so light might be revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus. In his story may we see our story, and understand more clearly our call to discipleship. In Jesus name we pray.**

**AMEN**

**Hymn: VU# 79 Arise Your Light Has Come**

**MOMENT TO PONDER:**

In our world Epiphany coincides with the depth of winter. A time of hibernation for the land and the forest, and perhaps a slower pace of life for its people. It is a time, if we allow ourselves to take it, to step back from the busyness of our lives and think about next steps in our journey. I know that sounds a lot like setting New Year's resolutions and by now many of us have forgotten those well intended thoughts. Yet, a new year spreads out before us. A year to learn new things perhaps. A year to embark on a new project. From where will our guidance come? What will be our inspiration? The liturgical season of epiphany leads us to stories of disciples being called to serve, and Jesus revealing his purpose step by step. How will we be lead if we don't set aside time to listen?

**HYMN: VU#530 All Beautiful the March of Days**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Mark 1:21-28

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Jesus My Breath, My Life, My Lord"**

**REFLECTION:**

**HYMN: VU#578 As A Fire Is Meant for Burning**

**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 **VU# 538 For the Gift of Creation**

**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 (sung)**

**VU# 959**

**HYMN: VU#96 Will You Come and See the Light**

**BLESSING**

**CHORAL AMEN**

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

**POSTLUDE**