

**Immanuel United Church
January 7, 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

It's a new year, and a new season. It's a season of light and of gifts, and we gather to celebrate Stewardship and Sharing. It's the season of Epiphany, a time of enlightenment and new beginnings.

It's a time to embark on journeys of Hope and perhaps to seek different roads.

Let us pray:

Holy One,

Strengthen our bodies and our will, as we continue on our path of change. Grant us hearts open to adventure, and imagination to see the possibilities in an unknown future. Bless us with new companions on this journey that is life, and faith, and hope. In Jesus name we pray.

AMEN

Hymn : VU# 82 a Light Is Gleaming

MOMENT TO PONDER:

When I was very young there was a poster on the church bulletin board, I'm sure you remember it too. It was titled "The Seven Last Words of the Church",

And under that it said, "We never did it that way before".

Now Churches, like all communities, function best on a foundation of tradition, established values, stability. It is often that consistency that we rely on for strength.

The stability of our traditions are being challenged like never before, and we move into a future difficult to comprehend. As we contemplate changes greater than we have know in our lifetimes, we wonder where the strength will come from to do things differently. Will we find the curiosity and the imagination to perceive the possibilities that await?

I have always loved The Walter Farquharson and Ron Klusmeier Hymn Teach Me God to Wonder. As we enter this new year may it be a blessing for us.

HYMN: VU# 299 Teach Me God to Wonder

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

CHOIR ANTHEM: “We Three Kings”

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

The Magi received a message that transformed their lives. They followed a star, shared their gifts, and began a new journey into God’s future. We too are on a journey into a new future. May we too have generous spirits and loving hearts.

Doxology VU# 542 We Give You But Your Own

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

May God be With you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and Praise

THANKSGIVING

Holy God of light and love,

By the light of your promise
You guide your people across the desert and through the night.
In the light of your presence
We behold your glory, and offer you our gifts.
Through the light of your peace
You claim us as your beloved, and joy is our banquet.
We give you thanks that you make manifest your glory:
Lighting the way for every pilgrim,
Gifting the earth with the Prince of Peace,
Setting a table for all who hunger.
Glory be to you who reveals your presence to all who call your name.

Prayers of Intercession

Creator God, Hear our prayers for the world, a place of wonder and beauty, and a place of fear and destruction.

Hear our prayers for those caught in the mayhem of war. Those who have died and suffered injury, those left homeless and hungry, those who have lost hope. Hear our prayers for refugees. Those whose lives are limited, whose futures are unclear.

Hear our prayers for those in our own community who hunger, who are alone, who have no home. Those who exist but can't really live .

Hear our prayers for ourselves,

We pray for compassion, for understanding, most of all we pray for hope,
May it guide our believing and our living.

AMEN

Words of Institution

AS we gather at this table,

We remember that on the night before he died,
Jesus had supper with his friends.

He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you,
Broke the bread and gave it to them saying:

“Take eat. This is my body given for you.

Each time you do this remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
Passed it to his friends saying:
“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

We pray you, God of love, send your Spirit on us and what we do here. That
these gifts, touched by your blessing, might nourish us and sustain us on
our journey together.

AMEN.

Let us unite in the words of the Jesus prayer which now we sing.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, Now
and forever.
AMEN**

The Sharing:

May this bread nourish and sustain us on our journey

AMEN

May this cup bless and refresh in our searching and our serving

AMEN

Come, for all is now ready.

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 compassion,
gratitude, joy, and hope, wherever we go.**

AMEN.

HYMN: VU# 87 I Am the Light of the World

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE