

**Immanuel United Church
February 18, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday
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 the first Sunday of Lent. That will mean different things to each of us. The season will unfold a little bit differently. Your worship team sees it as a time of wrestling. The symbol of the season is a rainbow. The Rainbow is a sign of God's Promise. We will wrestle with whether we believe the promise, whether we trust

the promise. Whether we will live in the light of the promise. The season is also about Jesus, and his journey to Jerusalem. On that journey he confronts himself and his own temptations, he confronts his calling to proclaim in word and deed the inbreaking of God's new age. On that journey he confronts the teaching of his own community that isolate people one from another. He will confront the rulers of the day who control and enslave and make human beings pawns of their plan for domination. And we will wrestle with his call to follow. Are we willing to risk what we have for the promise.

Let us pray:

Creator, be with us in our listening and in our wrestling. Encourage us with your promise, strengthen us to hear and risk the call. Guide us with insight and companionship to be a part of this journey. In Jesus name we pray.

AMEN

Hymn : MV#20 God of Still Waiting

MOMENT TO PRAY:

This is the time when I offer a thought or a challenge for the day. But for the next 6 weeks this will be your time to bring special prayers. The things you are wrestling with, special people who have gifted you, a concern for the world. Mostly it will be in silence. Today it will be in our seats, other weeks you might have a chance to come forward and light a candle to add light to your prayer.

Today, as Peter plays in the background, let's pray for about a minute, then standing we will sing All Who Are Thirsty

HYMN: MV#4 All Who Are Thirsty

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Come Walk With Me"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU#288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

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#544 In Gratitude and Humble Trust**

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

HYMN: VU#296 This Is God's Wondrous World

BLESSING

CHORAL AMEN

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

POSTLUDE