

## Immanuel United Church

February 25, 2024

Lent 2

### 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

February has been a time of acknowledging the contributions of Black men and women in the United States since the 1920s, largely because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, leaders associated with the abolition of slavery, both celebrated their birthdays in February. The commemoration of the contributions of Black people in Canada has been traced to the Black sleeping car porters who worked on both sides of the border. The first National Black History Month in Canada was February 1, 1996. This is Lent, and an appropriate time to recognize that even today Canada does not always value the gifts of Black and other racialized people who live in our communities. Perhaps that is one of the crosses we are called to pick up.

Let us pray:

**Creator, teach us that we are all brothers and sisters in your eyes. May we embrace strangers, accept our differences, and be humble in our listening and in our welcoming. Guide us with insight and companionship to be a part of this journey. In Jesus name we pray. AMEN**

**Hymn: VU#634 To Abraham and Sarah**

**MOMENT TO PRAY:**

This is the time when I offer a thought or a challenge for the day. But for the season of Lent, 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, we have votive candles on the table. You are welcome 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 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Make Them Hear You"**

**REFLECTION:**

**HYMN: VU#561 Take Up Your Cross**

**OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER**

We are a people blessed and blessing, may the sacrifices we make and the gifts we share become a rainbow of Hope in a world aching and broken.

Doxology VU#544 In Gratitude and Humble Trust

**Let us Pray:**

**Holy One, in our sharing, and in our praying, and in our serving, may the world know healing and compassion.**

**AMEN**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN: MV#212 Sent Out In Jesus Name**

**Commissioning**

May the Rainbow be our banner of Hope.

May the people of the earth know welcome and respect,

May we go from this place in the Grace of God who holds us in a Covenant of Love.

**CHORAL Blessing "Go In the Grace of the Lord"**

**POSTLUDE**