

Immanuel United Church
February 4, 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

The season of Epiphany always reveals something about Jesus and his vision and purpose. Yet we have heard the stories so many times, is there anything new left to hear? Well perhaps the stories haven't changed, yet we are different people. We live in a changed world, and perhaps our hearts and minds are touched by a word or an action we didn't notice before. What about you? Have you experienced a long forgotten awareness or a new insight this Epiphany?

Let us pray:

Creator, reveal your presence in our wonder, our doubt, our fear. Renew in us a sense of mystery, imagination, hope, and delight.

AMEN

Hymn : VU#374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

MOMENT TO PONDER:

February is Black History month. It is a little embarrassing for me that as a white middle-class kid growing up in Winnipeg I never was aware of all the diversity in our community. Oh, there was Leo Lewis, and a few other football players, but I didn't realize the contribution that Winnipeggers of African descent made until much later in my life. Today we live in a place of remarkable human diversity. It's good to be given an opportunity to be grateful for the richness that variety affords.

Our hymn, by John Oldham and Ron Klusmeier is not about human diversity specifically, but about many other encounters and experiences that enrich us and renew our spirits.

HYMN: MV#98 Like a River of Tears

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1:29-39

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Remember Me"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU#605 Jesus Teacher Brave and Bold

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

HYMN: VU#477 I Come With Joy

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation:

Greeting:

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, gracious God,
Creator of light, giver of all life, source of love.
At your word creation dawns.
Under your rainbow the floods recede.
With a burning bush you hallow the earth.
By a pillar of fire you guided your people.
We praise you that you do not abandon us.
You send Jesus to be a light to all the nations.
He brings sight to the blind, and healing to the sick,
Hope to the despairing and justice to the oppressed.

Prayers of Intercession

O God, we lift our prayers for the world,
A part of your creation, a focus of your love.
We pray for all who are victimized by hate and war,
All who are beset by hunger and disease, those who are homeless,
And all who are marginalized by bigotry and racism.
We pray for all who serve the broken hearted.
Those who provide food and water,
Those who offer medicine and care, those who listen to stories of grief.
We pray for our community, our friends and family in need. The sick and the
lonely, the grieving and the forgotten, the hungry and the alone.
Hear our prayers for those we name in the silence of our hearts.....

Words of Institution

Throughout his life Jesus shared meals with ordinary people. The marginalized and the outcast yes, his friends and disciples, yes, and throughout the span of history, all those who have embraced his calling and endeavoured to follow his way. We remember one such meal he ate with his disciples. He took the bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and passed it to them saying, take this and eat. This bread is the body of life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in Hope.

After that, he took the cup, poured it and blessed it, and passed it to them saying, "This cup is the sign of the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, 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:

Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13, adapted from The Message)

**God in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Keep us alive with three meals each day.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the world.
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#574 Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

Blessing

Amen (VU 974)

A-a-men, A-a-men, Hallelujah, A-a-men.

Postlude