

Immanuel United Church

March 10, 2024

Lent 4

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 guiding our lives always.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

A rainbow is a sign of Hope and of Promise, perhaps, we might say, a sign of God's love for the world.

As we look around, we see a broken world, climate destruction, war, famine, people feeling unheard, misunderstood, unloved.

Lent is the season we hear and affirm Jesus proclamation of God's sovereignty, and then we must acknowledge that we in this world have not lived out that vision of eternal community and that Jesus in teaching his vision, unleashes reactions of inhumanity and destruction that we participate in. From Rainbows to crosses, the journey continues.

Let Us Pray

Creator, may we hear your promise of a renewed world of Justice and Peace. Help us to lament the brokenness of the world in which we live. May we follow Jesus where he leads. AMEN

Hymn: VU# 108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

MOMENT TO PRAY:

Let us take a moment to open our hearts in prayer. If you desire you are welcome to come forward and light a candle as you offer a prayer.

HYMN: MV# 20 God of Still Waiting

SCRIPTURE:

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Hymn of Mercy" Flute ~ Paul Metcalfe

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 258 O World of God

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 (sung)

HYMN: MV# 150 Spirit God Be Our Breath

COMMISSIONING:

CHORAL Blessing "Go In the Grace of the Lord"

POSTLUDE