

Immanuel United Church

March 17, 2024

Lent 5

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 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

It occurs to me that last weeks reading would have been good for today, since St. Patrick was credited in ancient legend for removing all the snakes from Ireland. Yet in keeping with our theme of Covenant, Jeremiah brings a new perspective to our relationship with the Holy. And the rainbow still illuminates our worship

space though dark clouds shadow the future as Jesus moves towards Jerusalem.
And in honour of St. Patrick we'll sing some Celtic hymns too.

Let Us Pray

**Holy One, write your words in our hearts, so in joy and in sorrow we might be
disciples and partners.**

Hear our prayers for Hope and Justice in our community and in the world.

May we follow Jesus where he leads.

AMEN

Hymn : MV# 79 Spirit Open My Heart

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:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 12:20-33

CHOIR ANTHEM: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU # 614 In Suffering Love

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: VU # 642 Be Thou My Vision

COMMISSIONING:

CHORAL Blessing "Go In the Grace of the Lord"

POSTLUDE