

Immanuel United Church
April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

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 welcoming community, and that all belong here. The Spirit candle is present, pointing to the presence of God guiding our lives always.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT AND PRAYER

Some churches set aside the Sunday after Easter as Holy Humour Sunday. Last Sunday may have had its moments, but it was not a laugh fest. In the gospel reading today, Jesus reacts in astonishing ways, reminding us that we find delight in surprising places. One of the roles of a vibrant church is to find joy and laughter in the midst of challenge and fear.

Let us Pray:

Holy One, as spring unfolds in our world, open our hearts to joy and laughter, hope and grace, wonder and awe. May Jesus words revive our spirits and fill us with excitement.

AMEN

Hymn : VU# 187 Spring Has Come

MOMENT TO PONDER

Once upon a time everyone knew where the churches were. Almost everyone had a church community. Today people can walk or drive right past us and not notice; not wonder what goes on in that building; not know who we are. At the same time we are told that our communities experience a loneliness epidemic. How do we tell people “we can help?” How do we connect with others who are working to bring our community together? How do we share the blessing we have received with those who might be open to receiving the same thing?

There was a time that everyone had a church if they wanted one. Perhaps today we need to be more intentional about telling people where we are, and who we are.

HYMN: VU# 578 As A Fire Is Meant for Burning

SCRIPTURE:

John 20:19-31

CHOIR ANTHEM: “What Does the Lord Require of You?”

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU #182 Stay With Us Through the Night

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

We live in a world of uncertainty and doubt. Yet we have been gifted with all that we need. May the gifts we offer, and the lives we share, be a source of blessing, in the church and in the world.

Doxology **MV # 191**

Let us Pray:

**Holy One, in our sharing, and in our praying,
and in our serving, may the world know
Grace and Joy.**

AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

HYMN: VU# 624 Give to Us Laughter

COMMISSIONING:

CHORAL Blessing - Marty Haugen

POSTLUDE