

**Immanuel United Church
April 7, 2024
First Sunday After 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

Part of me wants to say thank heavens Easter is over! But it's not over is it? The season is just beginning. The disciples have been to the tomb and come away either excited, or confused, or terrified. Then they have these freaking experiences with someone who looks like Jesus but what does he want from us? Whatever it is for them or for us, it could get really messy, it's not going to be all

lollipops and rainbows. Oops! Did I really say that? Anyway, fasten your seatbelts. Whatever else happens today the music might give you whiplash.

Let us Pray:

Holy One, the surprises of Easter turn to the wonder “What happens next?”

Be in our wondering, in our surprises, and in our believing, as spring brings new delights, new hopes and new challenges.

AMEN

Hymn : VU# 158 Christ is Alive

MOMENT TO PONDER

The world is focussed today on seven workers with World Food Kitchen, killed by Israeli missiles after delivering food aid in Gaza. I can't help thinking “they died for us”. They served humanity on our behalf, they died feeding hungry people on our behalf. Doing things we would have wanted to be doing if it had been practical. In many places, in many circumstances, ordinary people are martyred simply for offering to serve the basic needs of humanity. Nurses, teachers, police, advocates, and activists, in our country and around the world Jesus continues to be crucified. Do we also see Christ Risen?

If we have more questions than answers perhaps Thomas should be our patron saint.

HYMN: VU# 185 You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 4:32-35

John 20:19-31

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Be Still and Know”

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

We live in a world of uncertainty and doubt. Yet we embrace mystery, and seek wisdom. May our questions and our longings, our beliefs and our trust, our resources and our gifts, be a source of Grace, in the church and in the world.

Doxology **MV# 191 What Can I do?**

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#652 Be Still, My Soul

COMMISSIONING:

CHORAL Blessing - Marty Haugen

POSTLUDE