

Immanuel United Church
March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday

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

The week had started so well. Jesus processed into Jerusalem as if he owned the place. It went downhill from there. The disciples didn't know what had hit them. At dawn on the first day of the week some of them wandered over to the tomb.

What was this? The stone rolled away? Jesus nowhere to be found? What had he said.....

Christ is Risen?

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Hymn : VU# 155 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

PRAYER

HYMN: VU# 161 Welcome Happy Morning

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 10: 34-43

Mark 16:1-8

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 166 Joy Comes With the Dawn

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 MV# 182 Grateful

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# 469 We Gather Here

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

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever living God,

Worker of wonders, maker of miracles,

Author of all life, and giver of life eternal!

Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and Hope.

Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.

And so with the risen Christ who makes all things new,

By the power of his resurrection, we join to celebrate the dawning of a new day .

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, you bless us with the rising of Jesus from the dead. You feed us with the bread and cup of Holy Community. You fill us with the Spirit of life, of hope, and of joy. Send us as your servants, into the world to share your love, wherever we go.

AMEN.

Hymn: VU#179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

Blessing

Choral Blessing "Go in the Grace of the Lord"

Postlude