

**Immanuel United Church**  
**May 5, 2024**

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 Early Church honored their Saints with special days until the there were more saints than days.

We too mark important people, issues, and events on the calendar. May is Asian Heritage month, and Canadian Jewish Heritage Month. May 5<sup>th</sup> is World Laughter day, Mental Health Sunday, and Red Dress Day, in remembrance of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People.

No one knows more than Christians the importance of marking special days, and Red Dress Day is particularly important given our colonial history; yet every day is a day to be grateful, and to reach out to a neighbour in need. Every day is a day to pray for peace, to remember those who hurt, to connect with nature, and to sing.

**Hymn : VU#222 Come Let Us Sing**

## **MOMENT TO PONDER**

**HYMN: VU#598 When Pain of the World**

### **SCRIPTURE:**

Psalm 98

John 15:9-17

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "One Bread, One Body"**

### **REFLECTION:**

**HYMN: VU#468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

## **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**

**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**

## **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**

God of goodness and promise, We give thanks for your presence in our midst.

In times of challenge, you are our strength.

In times of fear you are our courage.

We give thanks for the gift of faith, and for those who walk this journey with us.

Your presence never fails us, and your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

Open our hearts to receive blessing, and to offer compassion in the places we walk.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

O God, we lift our prayers for the world,

A part of your creation, a focus of your love.

Today we remember missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people.

We pray for Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, not knowing what to ask except for an end to death and hunger.

We pray for all who speak out, and demonstrate, and advocate for change, for justice, for hope.

We pray for 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 (Said) From VU 916**  
**Our Father-Mother.....**

**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#477 I Come With Joy**

**Commissioning**

**CHORAL Blessing - Marty Haugen**

**Grace: VU#549 For All Your Goodness God**