

Immanuel United Church

May 26, 2024

First After Pentecost

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

Most of the time Pentecost is a high worship day, marking the end of the Season of Easter, and the commissioning of the Church by the coming of the Holy Spirit. Some of you participated in that celebration last week at John Black. Many of us marked the coming of spring in the garden, at the cottage, or with family doing “spring things”.

However you celebrated Pentecost, know that there is a spirit that lives both in the gathered community and in the natural world that enlivens and inspires us to be more than we could be all on our own.

Let us Pray:

Your Spirit, God, works in our weakness

Until we are aflame with your love and power.

Fill the hearts of your faithful with living fire,

That we might set the world ablaze,

Through Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the spirit

Be honour and praise, now and forever.

AMEN

Hymn : VU# 234 Let Us With A Gladsome Mind

MOMENT TO PONDER

Wildfires have affected our forested areas more in the past decade or so than I can ever remember. In the process we have become aware of “zombie fires”. These are smouldering fires that burn deep beneath the surface of the ground, in humus or peat, or in the roots of trees and grasses when the water table has dropped enough to allow the burn. These fires can smoulder through the winter, even under snow, and when the spring comes can quickly ignite dry grasses or shrubs and start the process again.

I began to wonder if something similar happened in the church. The spiritual fire of Pentecost sometimes burns brightly, touching everything around, then sometimes going underground, effectively hidden, the passion of the spirit quietly nurtured, smouldering until new conditions inspire a blaze of energy.

The interplay of natural and human forces can become moments of awe and wonder as we explore the stories that shape our lives.

HYMN: MV# 147 God, Help Us to Treasure

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 6:1-8

John 3: 1-17

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Fill-A Me Up!"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 343 I Love to Tell the Story

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

It's a gift to be simple, It's a gift to be free,
It's a gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
It will be in the valley of love and delight.
In loving thanksgiving let us make our offerings.

Doxology **MV# 182 Grateful**

Let us Pray:

**Holy One, may our loving and our action
bring Hope and Peace to our community and
to our world.**

AMEN

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

HYMN: MV# 144 Like A Healing Stream

COMMISSIONING:

CHORAL Blessing - Marty Haugen

POSTLUDE