

**Immanuel United Church
September 8, 2024
Sacrament of Communion**

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

It feels like awhile since we have been together. I know many of you have been here all summer; some diligently working on committees, some visiting family and friends, some enjoying a different pace of life. September creates its own special energy. Like school kids we are anxious to see our friends again. Like parents we are ready for a routine. Perhaps we are curious about what has

changed, or what new opportunities may present themselves. It's good to be together again, it feels right, it's time!

Hymn : VU# 395 Part of the Family

MOMENT TO PONDER

One of the things we know about this Fall is that there will be a lot of changes. The world will not let us be complacent, and the changes we are facing will open us up to new connections with our community. Even Jesus was surprised when a gentile woman demanded that he pay her some attention. That he recognize that she was part of his world.

Who is part of our world? Our community? Will we be surprised, or will we readily recognize the travellers God places in our midst? Will we be cautious about who we walk with? Or embrace whoever shows up?

Sydney Carter wrote a song about journeying. Perhaps it will set the tone for September.

HYMN: VU# 639 One More Step Along the World I Go

SCRIPTURE:

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Anthem: "We Gather At Your Table"

REFLECTION:

HYMN: VU# 469 We Gather Here

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

Has summer been a blessing? May Fall be an abundant harvest! Have we received by the goodness of creation? Let us share with delight and gratitude!

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

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

Creator God, we praise you for all the goodness you have sown in this world, and for all the growth that leads to a mature harvest.

We give thanks for times of rest and renewal, and for time to gather again as your people, to engage together in the quest for justice and service.

We pray for all students who have begun classes, for new programs and projects, and for a Spirit that leads to cooperation and community.

As we gather around this special table, may we be mindful of all who lack the necessities of life particularly the gift of belonging. Teach us through word and action that love binds us one to another, and to the world.

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 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.
We pray for all those we name in the silence of our hearts.....

Words of Institution

Throughout his life Jesus shared meals with ordinary people. The displaced 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

Pour your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, O God,
that we might be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.
Dying to our old ways, may we rise to life anew.

Through your presence, may the garden of your Creation flourish and thrive,
and the fruits we bear nourish others.

AMEN.

Let us unite in the words of the Jesus prayer:

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung) VU# 959

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 parables and stories of your reign on earth. 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 be the hands and feet of Christ, wherever we go.

AMEN.

Hymn: VU# 606 In Christ There Is No East or West

Commissioning

Choral Amen:

"A-a-men, A-a-men, Hallelujah A-a-men (3x)

Postlude