**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Métis Nation

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**: “People Look East”  *French Folk Melody*

 *harm. Martin Shaw*

**Candle Lighting: “**Mary, Woman of the Promise” *A Fedak/M Graham*

**Treaty Acknowledgement**

**Hymn:** VU 7“Hope is a Star” vs. 3, 2, & 1 MOON BEAMS

**Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy,

Grant us courage to face life’s challenges

And not deny, downplay or ignore them.

Grant us the ability to receive what comes

With open hearts and open minds.

Help us welcome our deepest fears

That they may be reduced in intensity

And released into your hands.

**Silent Meditation**

**Words of Assurance**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

 **And also with you.**

“I Wonder as I Wander” *arr. Douglas Smith Bettina Nyman, flute*

**We Hear the Word**

**Gospel Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

This is the Gospel of Christ.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response:** VU 37 “Gloria”*Jacques Berthier*

**Anthem:** “Ave Maria” *Javier Busto*

**Sermon: “**Courageous Mary”

**Hymn:** VU 899 “Song of Mary” vs. 1-3 *Miriam Therese Winter*

**We Respond to the Word**

**Hymn:** VU 23 “Joy Shall Come” vs. 1-3 ISRAELI TRADITIONAL

**Offertory Prayer**

**Ministry of the People**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn:** VU 64 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 4 ST. LOUIS

**Hymn:** VU 16 “Mary, Woman of the Promise” GRATIA PLENA

**Benediction**

**Sung Response:** VU 38 “Gloria” Refrain GLORIA

**Postlude:** “The King Shall Come when Morning Dawns”

 *arr. David N. Johnson*

Reader: Shirley Watts

Candle Lighters: Andrea Wilkie Gilmore, Vaughn and Rowan

Camera & Production: Steve McClelland & Walter Watts

Interim Director of Music: Ruth Wiwchar

Organist: Dorcas Windsor

Flute: Bettina Nyman

Minister: Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd QR Code for Westworth donations

Minute for Mission

Children are the most vulnerable group in Colombia.



Children record radio programs through CEPALC.

We all know what it’s like to feel our spirit lift at the first note of music or to sense our minds being pried open by an enlightening radio or television show. Deep down we know that art changes our lives.

For hundreds of children living in Córdoba, Colombia, arts programs supported through your [Mission & Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) gifts teach children about their rights, give them an opportunity to express themselves, and promote peace-making as well as gender justice.

“Providing workshops for children that teach them about their rights empowers them to think critically about themselves and their country. Through media, art, music, and theatre, they learn about important social issues, human rights, and gender equality,” says the Latin American Center for Popular Communication (CEPALC).

Children are the most vulnerable group in Colombia. Eighty-four percent of violent acts in Colombia are committed against children. Two and a half million children living there work to sustain their families. Many are forced into dangerous labour. That’s why CEPALC designs programs in sectors hardest hit by poverty and violence.

"I told my mom that we had seen some works of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Flora Tristan. I remember that they taught us that we must defend the rights of us women. What I like, in general, is that they taught us that we must make peace,” says Amelie, an eight-year-old girl who lives in Bogotá and workshop participant. “Thanks to CEPALC workshops, I’ll be a writer, and I will write things so that children will promote and defend peace, following Jesus’ examples. I will defend and promote our rights in my stories so that nobody can disrespect us or the rights that we have. When I am an adult, I won’t be doing violence against anybody.”