**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Métis Nation

January 22, 2023

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Introit:** “You Are the Light” *Tom Fettke*

**Candle Lighting**

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” *John Carter*

**Treaty Acknowledgement**

**Children’s Time**

**Hymn:** VU 413“O Splendour of God’s Glory Bright” PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we are created in your image,

 yet too often in this world

 we do not reflect your light.

 Instead of being beacons in the night,

 sometimes we are in danger of snuffing out what light is left.

 Loving God, free us from the shadows that lie in all our hearts,

 so we will reveal to the world

 the light that is your love and together renew this world.

**Silent Meditation**

**Words of Assurance**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

 **And also with you.**

“Lead, Kindly Light” *Dale Wood*

**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture Readings:**

Isaiah 9: 1 - 4

 This is testimony to the Word of God.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 4; 12 - 23

This is the Gospel of Christ.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response:** VU 895 “Gloria” *Pablo Sosa*

**Anthem:** “As the Eagle Soars and Circles”

 *Herman G. Stuempfle and Kathy Powell*

**Sermon: “**A Great Light to Follow**”**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Hymn:** MV 98“Like a River of Tears” *Oldham/Klusmeier*

**Offertory Prayer**

**Ministry of the People**

**Prayers of the People**

 Prayer Introit: VU 951 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

VU 921 The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn:** VU 120 “O Jesus I Have Promised” vs 1-4  *Day of Rest*

**Benediction**

**Sung Response:** VU 87“I Am the Light of the World” refrain

**Postlude:**  “Te Deum Prelude” *Marc Antoine Charpentier*

Reader: Larry McPhail

Production & Camera: Peter & Kevin Sim

Interim Director of Music: Ruth Wiwchar

Organist: Dorcas Windsor

Alto Recorder: Jewel Casselman

Flute: Bettina Nyman

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Heather Robbins

 QR Code for Westworth donations

“There is no ‘us’ and ‘them.’ We are one community.”

Zimbabwe Council of Churches distributed emergency food assistance to communities such as maize meal, oil, and beans during the lean season jointly with The United Church of Canada and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

*Credit: KB Mpofu*

First there was the pandemic.

Then Russia invaded Ukraine, causing a global energy crisis and worldwide food shortages. These in turn worsened an already precarious food security situation for many communities.

According to UN OCHA, “the largest global food crisis in modern history is unfolding.”\*

At a time when it feels like there’s a new crisis confronting us each and every day, it’s reassuring to know that Mission & Service partners provide real-time relief around the world on a daily basis.

Program Coordinator for Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response at The United Church of Canada, Thivan Hoang, reminds us, “There is no ‘us’ and ‘them.’ We are one community.”

The United Church is an integral part of a multinational network of partners and ecumenical relationships in over 120 countries. That means whenever there’s an emergency, Mission & Service is there to help.

In 2020, a major explosion ripped through Beirut, killing 200 people and injuring 7,000 more.

Thanks to generous gifts to Mission & Service, we were able to support partners to respond quickly, providing critically important tools that helped to free people who were trapped under the rubble. And as the city recovers, Mission & Service partners continue to assist in rebuilding schools, homes, and other infrastructure.

Although Mission & Service has recently focused on COVID-19 relief, there’s another looming catastrophe that requires our immediate attention. “Without a doubt, climate change worries me the most,” Hoang says. “We’re seeing increases of droughts, floods, and severe storms that have destroyed crops and agricultural land.”

The more we support Mission & Service, the better we can respond to climate calamities. “People who contribute the least to greenhouse gases are often the most impacted by climate change,” Hoang explains.

Your gifts have made―and will continue to make―huge differences around the world. Wherever an emergency strikes, thanks to you, [Mission & Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) is there to help.