**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Métis Nation

March 5, 2023

2nd Sunday of Lent

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit:** “Be Still and Know” *arr.* *Fred Bock*

**Candle Lighting**

"Here at Your Table, Lord” *William Sherwin arr. Mark Hayes*

**Treaty Acknowledgement**

**Lenten Tenebrae**

We forget that our spiritual health affects our physical health.

When we neglect our spirits,

we care less for our earth and for one another.

Help us open our hearts to the Spirit,

that we may be born anew again and again.

We offer ourselves to you as instruments of healing for the world.

**Response:** MV 90 “Don’t Be Afraid”*John L. Bell*

**Hymn:** VU 108 “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” vs 1-4 WINCHESTER NEW

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**“**Song Without Words*” Op. 38 No. 2 Felix Mendelssohn*

**We Hear the Word**

**Responsive Reading:** VU 844 “Psalm 121”

**Scripture Readings:**

John 3:1-17

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response:** MV 10 “Come and Seek” vs 2

**Anthem:** “God So Loved the World” *Bob Chilcott*

**Sermon: “**Born of the Spirit**”**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Hymn:** VU 625“I Feel the Winds of God” KINGSFOLD

**Offertory Prayer**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** VU 936 (see insert)

**Hymn:** VU 458“Christ, Let Us Come with You”

*Shirley Erena Murray/Colin Gibson*

**Benediction**

**Choral Blessing:** “Go Ye Now in Peace” *Joyce Elaine Eilers*

**Postlude:** “The Kingsfold Trumpet” *Alfred V. Fedak*

Communion Servers: Denise Jones, Brett Lougheed, Ashleigh Mitchell, Kyle Mitchell, Kirk Windsor

Reader: Teresa Sztaba

Production & Camera: Steve McClelland & Walter Watts

Interim Director of Music: Ruth Wiwchar

Organist: Dorcas Windsor

Viola: Vijay Chalasani

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd QR Code for Westworth donations

Minute for Mission

Creating a safe space for single women in India



Maina Bai can now read and write and is empowering others to become literate.

*Credit: ASWA*

Maina Bai’s mother died when she was a baby, and Maina never went to school.

When she was just 10 years old, her father married her off to an older man. By 16, she had a child. A few years after the birth of her daughter, her husband died. When she returned to her maternal home, Maina was married off―again.

After a few years of marriage, Maina became a widow again. Single, she faced extraordinary stigma.

Approximately 2.18 million single women like Maina live in the state of Rajasthan, India. Whether they are widowed, divorced, or have never been married, these women are deemed “incomplete” and a disgrace to their families. As a result, many live lives marked by stigma, fear, and violence―simply for not being married.

Your gifts support Mission & Service partner Astha Sansthan, “Association of Strong Women Alone” (ASWA). In 20 years, the association grew from 450 single women to over 70,000 members.

ASWA’s approach is simple: Create a safe space for single women to come together and get the knowledge and skills necessary to improve their lives.

The association has made all the difference for Maina.

She can now read and write and is empowering other women to become literate. Because of her leadership, 35 women have enrolled in adult learning. All of them now have grade eight certificates. What’s more, the generational cycle of illiteracy has been broken. Maina’s daughter can not only read and write but is also teaching others to do the same, opening up opportunities and increasing independence.