**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Métis Nation

August 20, 2023

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Candle Lighting**

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” *arr. Mark Hayes*

**Treaty Acknowledgement**

**Call to Worship**

A new morning dawns. The summer continues.

 **Re-creation begins.**

A first note is sung. A first prayer is offered.

 **Re-creation begins.**

God offers new discoveries, introductions, and opportunities.

 **We are refreshed.**

Praise God for another new morning.

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn:** VU 290 “Nothing Can Trouble” NADA TE TURBE

**Prayer of Confession**

**Forgive us, O God, when we would**

**Rather insult each other on social media**

**Than sit down to break bread**

**And listen to one another;**

**When our anger over another’s hatefulness**

**Causes us to be hateful too;**

**When it becomes easier to slam the door**

**Than to serve one another.**

**Guide us back to you, O God.**

**Let our love and hospitality not be dependent on**

**The actions of others,**

**But fueled by our reaction to Your glorious grace.**

**Guide us back to You and Your way**

**When we are drawn into the drama that**

**Unfolds every day before us.**

**Silent Meditation**

**Words of Assurance**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

 **And also with you.**

“Wondrous Love” *arr. John Carter*

**We Hear the Word**

**Conversations for All Ages:** The Heart and the Bottle

**Hymn:** MV 109 “My Soul is Thirsting for You”

**Scripture Reading:**

Ruth 3

Thanks be to God who gives us the Word.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response:** MV 50 “Alleluia”*arr. Norah Duncan IV*

**Musical Offering: “**I Will Give Thanks” *Douglas E. Wagner*

**Sermon**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Hymn:** VU 356 “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” LAFFERTY

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayer Introit:** VU 400 “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” CHILDREN PRAYING

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn:** VU 420 “Go to the World” SINE NOMINE

**Benediction**

**Sung Response:** VU 974 “Amen” *Jim Strathdee*

**Postlude: “**Variation on Sine Nomine” *Denis Bédard*

 Reader: Iris McKay

Organist: Dorcas Windsor

Soloist: Keely McPeek

Interim Director of Music: Ruth Wiwchar

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard Westworth Donations

Mission and Service Story

United Churches are so well placed to support refugee families.

*Credit: Provided by Donna Nelson*

Helping a newcomer transition into Canada is a life-changing experience for everyone involved. From helping someone access health services, to sourcing Halloween costumes, to registering children for school and camp, every little bit helps.

Donna Nelson is no stranger to the hard and rewarding work that comes with welcoming someone to Canada. In the late 1980s, she had recently become a member of The United Church of Canada when her friend Barb asked her to help host two young Vietnamese men through the Regina Open Door Society. “That was all it took to get me hooked,” Donna shares.

At the time, she was a single parent to her four-year-old daughter Vicki. Together, they celebrated birthdays with their new friends, shared meals, visited tourist attractions, and enjoyed good friendship until the men moved to another province.

Since then, Donna has helped host refugees from countries like Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iraq, Iran, and Vietnam. Vicki and some newcomers learned Canadian geography together so the newcomers could pass the citizenship test. Donna even taught some newcomers to drive! At times life got busy, but Donna found herself called back to helping families.

Currently, Donna is actively involved with the refugee committee at Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Regina. She says, “The refugee ministry at Knox-Met is one of the most tangible and urgent ministries of welcome the congregation offers. We all benefit with the richness newcomers offer to our city and this community.

“United Churches are so well placed to support refugee families. We have both financial and community connections. It is a collaborative relationship—local congregations welcome families and provide the financial backing, and the national church helps with the bureaucracy. I am grateful to The United Church of Canada and [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) for the support over the years.