**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Red River Métis Nation

September 17, 2023

Outdoor Service

**We Gather to Worship**

**Centering Music** *River Flows in You* Yiruma

**Welcome**

**Gathering Words**

God declares: there is a time to break down and a time to build up.

 **This is a time to build up God’s creation!**

There is a time to mourn and a time to dance.

 **This is a time to build up God’s creation!**

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

 **This is a time to shout God’s praise with joy,**

 **In celebration of all God’s blessings**

 **And the gifts of God’s creation.**

Come for this is the time for worship

**Hymn** MV 14 *Where Two or Three are Gathered*

**Opening Story Just like Heaven by Patrick McDonnell**

**Hymn** VU 222 *Come Let us Sing*

**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture: Psalm 194**

Familiar words are not enough.

**New times call for new ways to praise God.**

So dance. Sing. Do something!

**Show you love God with your bodies as well as your words.**

Use every means you have –

Your music, your work, your social systems –

To demonstrate your love for God.

**God will not shun you because you show your emotions.**

Love is not limited to important positions or plummy accents.

So join together with others.

**Link your hands and your lives.**

Clap your hands and sing:

**Raise the roof in praise of God.**

Let the vigor of your voices overflow into your living.

**Seize each challenge as an opportunity**

**To promote justice among all the people,**

To bring to judgment those who cause pain and suffering.

**Even ruthless dictators cannot resist**

**The surge of popular pressure.**

The longer they try to withstand the tide,

The deeper they drown.

**This is how to give God praise.**

Let us praise God!

Translation by James Taylor, *Everyday Psalms: the Power of Psalms in Language and Images for Today.* Woodlake Books: Winfield, BC, 1994. Pages 182-183

**Scripture Romans 13: 8-14**

**Hymn** MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit*

**Story *The Story Blanket* – Ferida Wolff & Harriet May Savitz**

**Hymn** MV196 *We Will Take What You Offer*

**Blessing the Bags**

 **We’ll carry home stuff that isn’t finished,**

 **Stuff that hasn’t even been started,**

 **Stuff that has been completed and evaluated.**

There will be the ups and downs of our hopes –

 **Hopes that we can get our work done well,**

 **Hopes that we can get it done in time to have fun,**

 **Hopes that the work we do will help us grow and succeed**

There will be in and out of our dreams –

 **Dreams that what we learn and do will help the future,**

 **Dreams that what we do will help to make a better world**

 **Dreams that we can really shine and be the person you**

 **dream us to be.**

Bless these backpacks, briefcases, and various bags –

 **May they be filled with goodness and enough challenge**

 **to keep us excited about what might come next.**

When they are heavy, lighten the load.

When the work inside them seems overwhelming, Holy One, send us your strength to help carry them.

 **Thank you, God, for your blessing. Amen.**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Prayers of the Community**

Response: ***Loving God, hold us and our prayers***

**Hymn** VU 639 *One More Step Along the World* (v.1, 4, 5)

**Blessings and Sending Forth**

**Amen**

**Postlude** *Joy Song*by Mark Hayes

Reader: Teresa Sztaba

Pianist: Megan Dufrat

 Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard

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