**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Métis Nation

October 8, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Introit** *This is the Day*

**Candle Lighting**

*Wer nur den Lieben Gott Lässt Walten, Versus 1*Georg Böhm

**Treaty Acknowledgement**

**Call to worship**

In the songs of birds

And the warmth of sunshine,

 **We welcome the presence of God.**

In fields of grain, growing gardens,

And flowers blooming,

 **We welcome the presence of God.**

in the wave of a neighbour

and the phone call of a friend

 **we welcome the presence of God.**

In the bustle of the day,

And the quiet of the evening,

 **We welcome the presence of God.**

In the work we do

And the games we play,

 **We welcome the presence of God.**

In the memories we hold

And the love we have known,

 **We welcome the presence of God.**

Come, let us worship in the presence of God.

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn** VU 218 *We Praise You, O God*

**The Peace of Christ and Interlude**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

 **And also with you**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*arr. Phillip Keveren

**Anthem** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**Sharing the Story** *And Bear Says Thanks*

**Act of Thanksgiving**

**Hymn** VU 227 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 7-18**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 17: 11-19**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response** VU 717*Hallelujah*

**Anthem** *With a Voice of Singing*

**Sermon**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Hymn** VU 236 *Now Thank We All Our God*

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer** VU 921

**Hymn** VU 520 *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*

**Benediction**

**Sung Response** VU 974 *Amen*

**Postlude** *All Creatures of our God and King* arr. Phillip Keveren

Reader: Earl Gould

Organist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard

 QR Code for Westworth Donations

Your generous support of Mission and Service
provides life-saving advocacy.

*Credit: Astha Sansthan's Association of Strong Women Alone*

When Geeta’s husband died, she not only lost her life partner but also her home. Because she was no longer married her in-laws wouldn’t allow her to stay in their multi-generational residence.

Geeta is just one of an estimated 72 million women in India who are not married—nearly double the entire population of Canada. In India, most women are expected to marry and live with their husband and his family. Unmarried women, even those who are widowed, are often seen as dishonourable. Like Geeta, they may suffer abuse.

Fortunately, Geeta was able to flee to her parents’ home with her two younger children, but many parents will not allow their newly single daughters to return.

While Geeta and her younger children stayed with her parents, her in-laws stole her jewellery, changed the locks, and kept her two older children from her. That’s when she turned to [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) partner Astha Sansthan’s Association of Strong Women Alone (ASWA) for help.

ASWA supports thousands of single women from low-income backgrounds in Rajasthan to defend their rights. The organization has also shared their advocacy methods and experiences with other groups across India.

Thanks to ASWA’s help, Geeta’s in-laws ultimately had to give back her jewellery, unlock her home, and return her older children to her care.

Today, Geeta is living peacefully with her children in her part of the house.

Your generous support of [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) provides life-saving advocacy. It is one way your gifts address crushing inequality and help build a better world for all. Thank you!