**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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

November 26, 2023

Advent 1 – *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

We Acknowledge our Weariness

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Introit** *Fanfare* Martin Shaw

**Centering Words**

**Call to Worship**

In God’s house, we can be joyful.

 **We can be grateful.**

 **We can be hopeful.**

In God’s house, we can be weary.

 **We can be anxious.**

 **We can be grieving.**

In God’s house, we can be honest –

 **Inspired or tired,**

 **Delighted or doubtful,**

 **Connected or curious,**

 **And everything in between.**

This is God’s house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

 **Let us worship our loving God.**

**Hymn** VU 5 *All the Earth is Waiting*

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

How does a weary world hope?

 **By telling stories of hope,**

 **By lighting candles in the night,**

 **And planting seeds in the winter that**

 **Will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow,

and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

 **By insisting that small acts can make a different.**

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

 **With God’s help, may we bring hope into a weary world.**

**Hymn** VU 7 *Hope is a Star* (v1)

**Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

  **Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

 **Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

 **Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

 **Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of the season, we pray:

 **Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

 **Remind us that healing takes time,**

 **and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

 **Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.**

 **Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.**

**Silent Reflection**

**Words of Forgiveness**

 **We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.**

 **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**The Peace of Christ and Interlude**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

 **And also with you.**

 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**Sharing the Story** *Star from Afar*

**Celebrating Communion** (see insert)

*This Do in Remembrance of Me* Judy Hunnicutt

**We Hear the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Readings** Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

 Luke 1: 1-23

**Anthem** *An Advent Invitation* Douglas Nolan

**Reflection**

**Hymn** MV 143 *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

**Offering**

**Offertory** VU 560 *Grant Us God* (tune only)

**In this weary world we’re waiting**

**Advent God, would you draw near?**

**Bless these gifts, our lives, our loving**

**Make room for hope to enter here?**

**Offering Prayer**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer (VU921)**

**Hymn** VU 29 *Hark the Glad Sound*

**Benediction**

**Sung Response** VU 974 *Amen*

**Postlude** In dulci jubilo Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

Reader: Denise Jones QR Code for Westworth donations

Organist: Megan Dufrat

Cellist: Sophie Caron

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard

