**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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

December 24th, 2023

Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Introit** *I Wonder as I Wander*arr. Niles

(tenor solo -Ethan Glazier)

**Centering Words**

**Carol** VU 47 *Still, Still, Still*

**Call to Worship**

There is room for you here.

If you’re weary and worn

Or hopeful and patient.

  **If you are tired and lost,**

 **Or wrapped up in hope.**

If you’re new to this place,

Or have been here before.

 **Come in, come in.**

 **There is room for you here.**

The angels are singing.

 **“Be not afraid.”**

The angels are singing.

 **“Good news and great joy!”**

So come in, come in!

 **There is room for us here.**

**Candle Lighting Liturgy**

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy or know love?

How does a weary world shine a light into even the bleakest of

nights?

**We do all this by remembering.**

We remember it’s okay to bring our weariness to this place. We

remember to connect with each other. We remember to be amazed

by the beauty of the world around us. And we remember to sing

songs of hope even when our hearts are heavy.

But most of all we remember to make room, room for God’s hope,

peace, joy, and love.

**Tonight we come to remember how a child was born for us in Bethlehem and in this place we can feel how the Christ draws near to us once more.**

Tonight we light the Christ Candle. Tonight, we remember we are

not alone.

**God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.**

**Hymn** VU 7 *Hope is a Star* (v 4, 3, 2 and 1)

**Scripture** Luke 1: 26-38

**Special Music** *Rejoice Greatly (Messiah)* Handel

*(soprano solo – Alice Macgregor)*

**Scripture** Matthew 1: 18-24

**Carol** VU 44 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (1, 2, 4)

**Scripture** Luke 2: 1-20

**Anthem** *See Amid the Winter Snow* John Goss, arr. Dan Forrest

**Reflection**

**Carol** VU 50 *He is Born*

**Offering**

**Offertory Music** *The Holy Boy*Michael Head

(flute solo – Bettina Nyman)

**Offering Hymn** VU 55 *In the Bleak Midwinter* (1, 4)

**Dedication**

 **On this night, when gifts wait beneath trees and as children try to sleep under the weight of anticipation of what the morning will bring we place our gifts before You. We have nothing without your love, we have nothing without your peace. Move among us this holy night, bless what has been given, and bless those of us gathered here, helping us to be agents of Your love and hope in this world. Amen.**

**Carol** VU 58 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Holy Communion** (see insert)

**Carol** VU 74 *What Child is This?*

**Commission** *Passing the Light of Christ*

**Carol** VU 67 *Silent Night*

(recorder - Jewel Casselman)

**Benediction**

We believe in a God who makes room for us, who opens the door, pulls up a seat, puts the kettle on, and says. “Tell me everything.”

**So as we leave this place tonight, guided by candlelight, filled with excitement and peace, we turn and face the new year making room for Hope.**

For Peace.

 **For Joy.**

For Love.

And all God’s people said: **Amen.**

**Postlude** *Silent Night* arr. Ola Gjeilo

Reader: Sharon Stanley

Communion Servers: Ed White, Phio White, Ana White, Paul Edwards,

Jacob Gerhard, Arlene Hintsa

Bread Baker: Alan Wilson

Organist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard QR Code for Westworth donations