**Westworth United Church**

1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

on Treaty One Territory in the heart of the Métis Nation

February 4th, 2024

The Baptism of Jesus

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Introit** Jazz Introit Curry

**Candle Lighting**

**Call to Worship**

On that first day, when time began:

 **You gave birth to creation;**

 **Light danced through the darkness;**

 **The waters of hope flowed free and clear.**

On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

 **You spoke of life for all your children,**

 **As your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness,**

 **Dancing in hope with his cousin, John.**

On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

 **You call us to faithfulness,**

 **As we open our hearts to you,**

 **Your voice claiming us as your own.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Most Wonderful One, we too delight in your Son. As in**

**his name we gather in this house of praise, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of the Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making. Through Christ we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 380 She Flies On

 *(refrain, v1&2, refrain, v3&4, refrain, v5, refrain)*

**Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

Can you imagine a God who would rather forgive us than punish us, who calls us ‘my delight,’ rather than chiding us for being so foolish and wayward? This is why Jesus came to us, so we might know of God’s tender love toward us. Holding this truth let us confess our lives to the One who fills us with hope, as we pray together:

 **We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, Patient One, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our actions, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do.**

He wants us to do what is right, yet doing what’s wrong seems to come more easily.

 **He would like us to keep fighting until justice is done, but we don’t seem to have the time to commit.**

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you for the ways we let you down.

 **And we know that you are our Glory and our Grace. Bathe us in the life giving waters of Your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise our hearts can carry, to live into the justice, grace, and hope Jesus calls us to.**

**Assurance**

You are God’s beloved. You delight God’s heart. Believe this good news, my friends!

**The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**The Peace of Christ and Interlude**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

 **And also with you**

**Sharing the Story and Communion**

**Hymn** MV 48 I Can Feel You Near me God

**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 29**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 4-11**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** Like a River in My Soul Osiek

**Sermon**

**Hymn** VU 382 Breathe on me Breath of God

**We Respond to the Word**

**Offering**

**Offertory** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Offertory Prayer**

 **O God you overwhelm us with the blessings of creation and the blessings of your love. Love revealed in Jesus and experienced by us through the power of your Spirit. We respond with these and all our gifts and pray that through them others may come to experience your presence in the world. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn** MV 161 I Have Called You By Your Name

**Benediction**

**Sung Response** MV 211 Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light

**Postlude** I’ve Got Peace Like a River arr. Paul Johnston

Reader: Kathy Wilson QR Code for Westworth donations

Minute for Environment: Frank Wynes

Communion Servers: Glenn Aitchison, Christine Strike,

Eunice Pratt, Brooklyn Pratt, and Al Mapes

Organist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard