**Westworth & St. Andrew’s River Heights United**

an Affirming Ministry located on the lands of

Treaty One Territory

and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation

July 21th, 2024

**We Gather to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Introit** MV 18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a SanctuaryThompson & Scruggs

**Call to Worship**

We come together, bringing all that we’ve experienced and learned in the days since we were last here.

**We come together, brining with us all that we’ve been thinking and feeling this week.**

The world of the week, and the worship of today

**Come together in the stories of our faith and our**

**faith ancestors.**

Let us knit it all together.

  **Come, it is time for worship!**

**Opening Prayer**

Holy One

 **We come from the fields and campsites,**

 **From cottages and backyard pools,**

 **From river sides and public parks,**

 **To this place of peace and safety,**

 **Of sanctuary, and of holy community.**

 **We come to worship –**

 **To sing and to pray and to give thanks**

 **As we hear God’s stories.**

 **How good it is to be here!**

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** MV 14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered B Harding

**Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

God whispers to us in the noise of the summer thunderstorm

 **But we feel only anger and fury,**

**notice only the gloom and the shadows**

 **around us**

God speaks to us from the pages of the newspaper

**Yet we read only words of despair and of tragedy, finding only pictures of destruction and of conflict.**

God tugs within our hearts with words of invitation,

**While we seem only to feel the weariness in our bones, the heaviness in our limbs, the lethargy of our will.**

God commands,

 **And we turn away.**

Yet you keep insisting, prodding, beckoning, O God.

**We turn within to find our fear of the unknown, terror at changing how we’ve always done things, worry that we’re not made of the right stuff.**

Still God, in Jesus, says “follow me.”

**We offer, then, our inner failings, the ways we have ignored your calling, O God, trusting your invitation is still ours to become.**

**Words of Assurance**

God whispers to us in the noise of a summer thunderstorm,

**So that now, forgiven and transformed, we discover the promise of life and of growth.**

God speaks to us from the pages of the newspaper,

**So that disturbed and motivated by what we notice, we reach out in self-giving to change the world, to foster right relations even with strangers a world away.**

God tugs within our hearts with words of invitation

**So that in joy we respond with discipleship, finding a divine companion in the Spirit, rejoicing in our new found freedom to journey in faith.**

God commands,

**So that in Jesus we find our road map, following the resurrection promise into new life. Amen**

**Sung Response** MV 90 Don’t Be Afraid J.L. Bell & G Maule

**The Peace of Christ**

**Sharing the Story**

**Hymn** MV 104 Know that God is Good traditional, Congo

**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 11 (selections)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Soloist** Ruth’s Song: Entreat Me Not To Leave Thee Charles Gounod

**Sermon**

**Hymn** MV 150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath B Harding

**We Respond to the Word**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory** MV 191 What Can I Do? Rumbolt, McCarthy, & Whitmore

**Offering Dedication**

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

**Hymn** VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CW M RHONDDA

**Benediction**

**Sung Amen** MV 219 Ameni South African

**Postlude**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah arr. Faye Lopez

Reader: Colleen Watters Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Soloist: Isabelle Buisson Pianist: Megan Dufrat

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson Minister: Tricia Gerhard