**Westworth & St. Andrew’s United Churches**

an Affirming Ministry located on the lands of

Treaty One Territory

and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation

December 29, 2024

 **We Gather to Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

…We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear –

  **God is in our joy.**

God is in this room.

 **We have reason to celebrate.**

We have a reason to sing.

 **Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

**Hymn** VU 35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

**Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

…Let us pray together; let us choose joy.

Joyful God,

You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven,

We must be like children.

**Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?**

**Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?**

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,

 **This often seems easier said than done.**

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments

When we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.**

We know that even now

You are sowing delight in our lives.

 **Open our hearts up to it.**

 **With gratitude we pray, amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

 **We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

**Sung Response** VU 38 Angels we have heard on high (refrain only)

GLORIA

**We Hear the Word**

**Prayer**

**Lesson One**

***Listen for Joy:*** Luke 2: 10 & Isaiah 9: 2-3

***Sing with Joy:*** VU 59 Joy To the World (v.1,2,4) ANTIOCH

***Practice Joy:*** *Joy Found in Scripture*

*Let’s pray:* **Loving God, you love when we laugh. You love when we play. You love when we share. Remind us that your good news is for all people. Amen*.***

**Lesson Two**

***Listen for Joy:*** *Matthew 2: 10 and Psalm 148*

***Sing with Joy:*** VU 91 The First Nowell THE FIRST NOWELL

***Practice:*** *Joy Found in Community*

**Lesson Three**

***Listen for Joy:*** *Psalm 126: 1-3 & Isaiah 55: 12-13*

***Sing with Joy:*** VU 68 All Poor Ones and Humble OLWEN

***Practice Joy:*** *Joy Found in Prayer and Giving*

**Hymn** VU 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy TREES OF THE FIELD

**Blessing & Sung Benediction** MV 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

**Postlude**



Reader: Paul Galbraith

Pianist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard QR Code for Westworth donations