



West River United Church

'... seeking, sharing, celebrating abundant life in Christ'



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

Andrea Rogers Family & Youth Coordinator

Lay Reader: Carol Stevenson-Seller

and all members of West River United Church

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 10, 2021

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME*

ONE: As God's beloved children, let us share signs of love with one another as we share the peace of Christ. *(Please share the peace of Christ with a friendly wave)*

♪ This Is the Day – MV 122

**This is the day that God has made
we will rejoice and be glad (X2)
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad! (X2)**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (IN UNISON)

ALL: The light of Christ shows us a brighter path to walk. So, let us live in the brightness God has given. *(The Christ candle is lit.)*

♪ Christ Be Our Light

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

CALL TO WORSHIP** *please stand as you are able*

ONE: The Christmas tree lights and decorations have been packed up.

ALL: **The gifts have been shared.**

ONE: But the awesome love of God still shines brightly in our hearts.

ALL: **Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.**

ONE: God is with us!

ALL: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

♪ **All Who Are Thirsty – MV 4**

**All who are thirsty,
all who are weak,
come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow
be washed away
in the waves of God's mercy
as deep cries out to deep.
We sing Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *** *(in unison)*

ALL: **Glorious God, we rejoice in your presence on this holy day. Reveal your presence to us in word, in fellowship and worship. Speak words of life, that we may sense your Spirit breathing new life into us each and every day. Speak your words of love, that we may rest in the knowledge that we are your beloved children. In your holy name, we pray.**

Together we pray the words that Christ taught us saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name
thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING*

ONE: Let us share our gifts with God's people, so that all may know they are all beloved children of God.

♪ **Lord Prepare Me – MV 18**

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true –
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you. (repeats)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*in unison*)

ALL: Beloved God, bless these gifts with your loving presence. Bless our very lives with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be signs of your mercy and grace in the world. In your loving Spirit, we pray. Amen.

MINUTES FOR MISSION

TIME FOR ALL AGES

♪ **Draw the Circle Wide – MV 145**

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. (R)**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. (R)**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. (R)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *** (*in unison*)

ALL: When our hearts are hard as stone, soften us with your grace. When our lives are riddled with sin and pain, heal us with your mercy. When our ears are ringing with self-doubt and cynicism, strengthen us with words of faith and love. When our minds are muddled with confusion and fear, enlighten us with the radiance of your wisdom. Speak to our spirits from the truth of your being, the reality of your love, and the promise of your forgiveness, that we may hear your voice clearly and follow where you call us to go.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *

ONE: Hear the truth of God's voice breaking through the clouds of our lives:
"You are my child, the one I dearly love. I delight in your creation."

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 43: 1-7 (*New Revised Standard*)

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the river, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from

far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

MARK 1: 4 - 11 (*New Revised Standard*)

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

MINISTRY OF MUSIC – PHYLLIS LOWTHER

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

♫ **On Jordan’s Bank – VU 20**

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won;
And praise to God whom we adore,
With Holy Spirit evermore.**

BENEDICTION ****

ONE: Go now as servants of the living Christ.
Go now to live peace, share love and bring hope.
Go knowing that peace of the Christ rests upon you,
this day and always. Amen.

♪ **Go Now In Peace**

**Go now in peace.
Never be afraid.
God will go with you
each hour of ev'ry day.**

**Go now in faith,
steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you
in all you do.**

**Go now in love,
and show you believe.
Reach out to others
so all the world can see.**

**God will be there
watching from above.
Go now in peace,**

**in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

**Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021.*

***Rev. Tara Ann Gourson, 2021.*

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