



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

Lent 1

February 21, 2021

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

♪ **We are Pilgrims on a Journey – VU 595 – Vs. 1**

**We are pilgrims on a journey
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

WELCOME – LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND SHARING THE PEACE*

CANDLE LIGHTING – THE ROGERS FAMILY

ONE: This is our Light. Look how their light has grown and can be in so many places at once. Let's enjoy the light, as we share a greeting of peace with each other now with a wave. *(Please share the peace of Christ with a friendly wave)*

♪ **There Is Room for All – MV 62**

**There is room for all
in the shadow of God's wing;
There is room for all,
sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge**

and the rock, in whom I trust.”

There is room for all.

There is room for all.

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

ALL: During this time of Lent, we are reminded of the many paths that lie before us, with so many paths to choose. Guiding One, help us so that we hear your word in worship this day so that we might recognize you more clearly as you come to us in the coming weeks. Guide us as we walk your path of love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

♪ **Don't Be Afraid – MV 90**

Don't be afraid.

My love is stronger,

My love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid.

My love is stronger,

And I have promised,

Promised to be always near.

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

ALL: Faithful and loving God, give us courage and strength for the journey before us. Guide us so that we may discern your path of love. Send us your Holy Spirit to be with us as we move forward. Draw us close to you and your ways so that we may not stumble. Together we pray as Jesus 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: May our gifts this morning symbolize a turning of our hearts and hands towards God and to the world, as we offer them in response to God's healing and love in our lives, communities and world. Let us now share our morning offering.

♪ Your Work, O God Needs Many Hands – VU 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.**

**Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*in unison*)

ALL: May the gifts we bring be gifts of love. May the offerings we share be offerings of our hearts. May each gift be blessed by your grace, that others may know the truth of your love. Amen.

MINUTES FOR MISSION

TIME FOR ALL AGES

♪ Like a Healing Stream – MV 144

**Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
As in a dream unfolding,
Promising revival and rebirth....**

Like a healing stream.

**Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
To coax a new creation,
Yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.**

**Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
In a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
Like a river strong.**

**Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
To shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
Like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

GENESIS 9:8-17 *(New Revised Standard)*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the

clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

MARK 1:9-15 (*New Revised Standard*)

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." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 644 – 'I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry'

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well,
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.**

**When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,**

**I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

BENEDICTION ****

**ONE: May the brightness of God light our way.
May the brightness of Christ shine within us.
May the brightness of God's spirit flow through us.**

♪ Go Out and Serve Him

**Filled with the Spirit,
filled with God's grace,
Filled with the friendship
we find in this place;
called as disciples, go now in faith.
Jesus will show the way.**

**Go out and serve Him, serve Him.
Carry His Word into all of the world.
Go and serve Him, serve Him.
Go out and serve our Lord.**

**Filled with the Spirit,
filled with God's grace,**

**Filled with the friendship
we find in this place;
called as disciples, go now in faith.
Jesus will show the way.**

**Go out and serve Him, serve Him.
Carry His Word into all of the world.
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POSTLUDE

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