



West River United Church

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



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns
Andrea Rogers Family & Youth Coordinator
Lay Reader: Jennifer Shields
and all members of West River United Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 7, 2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

ONE: As we gather to share worship, let us pause to remember that we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded and traditional territories of the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people.

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME*

ONE: As we share the peace of Christ may we feel the love, peace and grace of God's love. *(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: God has invited us to come.

ALL: **So we gather.**

ONE: God has spoken to the world.

ALL: **So we listen.**

ONE: God has given us glimpses of grace and mercy.

ALL: **So we wait and watch, longing for healing, eager for hope.**

ONE: God has been faithful to all generations.

ALL: **So we trust, and worship God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.**

♪ **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: **O God, we pray that your Spirit of love and grace will be amongst us this morning in our worship. We pray that our hearts and minds will be open so that we may absorb your healing deeply and we pray that we will be changed, and come to know you better, and serve you with greater purpose.**

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: Jesus' ministry brought healing and hope to so many people who reached out to him. Our offering supports ministries of healing and hope here and around the world. Know that your gift matters.

♪ **Lord Prepare Me – MV 18** *please stand as you are able*

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*in unison*)

**ALL: Generous and loving God, we bring our offering to you, trusting that
you will bless our gifts so that they touch many lives and bring healing
and hope in these difficult days. Amen.**

MINUTES FOR MISSION

TIME FOR ALL AGES

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: Holy One, along with our praise, we offer you our confession. At times we forget what we once knew of your love. Consumed by worry, we forget to trust you. Although we know you made us for a purpose, we choose our own ways. Discouragement seeps into our hearts in the cold of winter and we do not serve you with eagerness. We fail to speak out against injustice in our community. Forgive us. Renew our hearts and give us energy for your purposes. Raise us up on wings of faith. May we walk by your light and not grow weary. May we run and not faint. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *

ONE: Hear these words from scripture: "Those who hope in God will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not

be tired; they will walk and not be weary". So we know that, no matter what, your sins are forgiven. God will give you strength and hope each day. Amen.

♪ **Psalm 91 - Refrain – VU 807**

**And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of my hand.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 40:27-31 *(New Revised Standard)*

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God does not faint or grow weary; God's understanding is unsearchable. God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

MARK 1:29-39 *(New Revised Standard)*

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

HYMN VU 670 'Precious Lord, Take My Hand'

**Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 269 'The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young'

**The care the eagle gives her young,
safe in her lofty nest,
is like the tender love of God
for us made manifest.**

**As when the time to venture comes,
she stirs them out to flight,
so we are pressed to boldly try
to strive for daring height.**

**And if we flutter helplessly,
as fledgling eagles fall,
beneath us lift God's mighty wings
to bear us, one and all.**

BENEDICTION ****

ONE: Go now to love as beloved children of God.

Go now to live as living signs of Christ's presence.

Go now to transform the world with the power of the Holy Spirit.

♪ 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

** Presbyterian Church of Canada, 2021.*

***Abingdon Worship Annual, 2021.*

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