



# West River United Church

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



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns  
Andrea Rogers Family & Youth Coordinator  
Lay Reader: Andrea Rogers  
and all members of West River United Church  
Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 17, 2021

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## PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME\*

ONE: We are here, O God, waiting to hear your word. We are ready for your word of love. 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: God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,

ALL: **"Here I am!"**

ONE: Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we answer,

ALL: **"Here I am!"**

ONE: Holy Spirit, you call each of us to worship you this day, and we answer,

ALL: **"Here I am!"**

♪ **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, you call to us today, just as you called to the boy Samuel so long ago. Gathered here today, we are many different ages, but we pray for the maturity of faith to hear your call and respond to your Word. Open our ears and our hearts as we worship, as we work, and as we care for one another. We ask that you give us courage and integrity to answer your call with the heart-felt words, "Here I am!" Amen.**

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: In today's stories from scripture, God called people to give their lives in service to God's holy purposes. May the gifts we offer today serve God's holy purposes in the church and in the world for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen

♪ **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 thank you for your goodness to us.  
Thank you for these gifts. Use them and us to create new possibilities  
in the world for those who are uncertain about what the future holds.  
We open our hand and hearts to share your blessings with others.  
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: O God, you call to us. We hear you but aren't sure who is calling. We hear you but are distracted by many things. We hear you but are afraid to answer. Open our hearts to your voice. Help us set aside our doubts, our fears, and our distractions, that we may answer you faithfully. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE \*

**ONE: The God whose love gave us the gift of Jesus Christ is the same God whose love forgives and sustains us. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**1 SAMUEL 3:1-10** (*New Revised Standard*)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So

he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**JOHN 1:43-51** *(New Revised Standard)*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth. Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

MINISTRY OF MUSIC – RICK BURGER

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

♪ **Here I am Lord – VU 509**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
my hand will save.**

I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them;  
they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? (R)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them;  
my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? (R)

BENEDICTION \*\*\*\*

ONE: Go into the world, listening for God's call in your lives. Go into the world,  
ready to follow Jesus Christ. Go into the world, sustained by the love and  
power of the Holy Spirit. 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.*

*\*\*Whole People of God, 2021.*

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