



West River United Church

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



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

Andrea Rogers

and all members of West River United Church

Lent 5

April 7, 2019

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

ONE: God is here, pouring love into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive this love, as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

(Please share the peace of Christ with each other)

♪ **'Come All You People' MV 2** *(projected)*

LENT CHALLENGE 5*

ONE: Today is the fifth Sunday in Lent. Last week we invited everyone to share their faith with someone. This week our challenge is to reach out to someone who is lonely. We would like you to make a point of either visiting or calling or sending a card to someone who you know is feeling lonely or alone. Try to reach out to someone you aren't usually in the habit of reaching out to. It can be someone you know from the community or a stranger. For instance, you could go to a nursing home and offer to visit someone who needs a visit or drop off some encouraging notes for the residents there. So this is your challenge for the coming week.

(The Christ candle is lit.)

♪ **'Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights' VU 108 vs 1 - 5** *(projected)*

CALL TO WORSHIP *please stand, as you are able*(in unison)*

ALL: God is always doing a new thing - creating a new day, calling us to new life, showing us a new path. Even as we journey towards the cross with Jesus, God calls us to reach forward into the journey that lies ahead. God has poured out gifts of love on all people. Let us worship our generous God!

♪ **'God of the Bible' – MV 28 vs 1 & 2 (projected)**

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

ALL: Gracious God, as we move ever closer to the celebration of Easter, lead us and make our paths straight and Your presence felt. Guide us with renewed hope, so that we may perceive the signs of life that spring forth from Your abundant love. With hope and trust in Jesus we pray. Together we pray the words that 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING***

ONE: At the dinner party for Jesus in Bethany, Mary offered Christ her love and devotion when she anointed his feet with expensive perfume, filling the whole house with the sweet aroma of her generosity. Christ accepted Mary's gift in the spirit in which it was given: gladly and graciously. Trusting that Christ will never reject our gifts when offered to him with glad and generous hearts, let us give to God our offerings.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

♪ 'Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary' – MV 18 (*projected*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER*** (*in unison*)

ALL: Loving and gracious one, bless these gifts which we return to You. May they bring forth new hope, new beginnings, and new life for Your people everywhere. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'Like a Rock' – MV 92 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

ALL: Gracious God, anoint us with Your mercy and compassion, as You hear our words of confession. Guide us to be people who face anger and selfishness with anointing and healing power. Guide us to be people who face doubt and despair with hope and determination. Guide us to receive new life that You offer, as we accept Your forgiveness and trust your grace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE***

ONE: Jesus challenged us to look beyond the moment, and to trust in the path of grace that lies before us. For it is in the mercy of God's love that we are healed and forgiven.

ALL: Let us celebrate the gifts that God gives to us, and which God calls us to give. Let us remember the extravagance of God's grace, poured out over us in ways that might seem wasteful, but that are life-giving. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 43:16-21 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

(.../over)

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

PSALM 126 VU 850 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

♪ **We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

ONE: When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.

ALL: **But then our mouth were full of laughter,
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

ONE: Then they said among the nations:
"God has done great things for them."

ALL: **Truly God has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoice.**

♪ **We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

ONE: Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

ALL: **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.**

ONE: Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,

ALL: **shall come home with songs of joy,
bringing in their sheaves.**

♪ **We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

JOHN 12:1-8 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him),
said, (...lover)

⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

HYMN VU 642 'Be Thou My Vision' (projected)

♪ **'In You There Is a Refuge' – MV 84** (*projected*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN MV 144 'Like a Healing Stream' (projected)

BENEDICTION****

ONE: The peace of Christ holds us,
the love of the Creator enfolds us,
and the wings of the Holy Spirit carry us,
today and always.
Amen!

♪ **'Amen' – VU 967** (*projected*)

L/E Gathering 2019 pg. 66, S. Browning., **Whole People of God, 2019, Lent., * The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2019. ****Called to Be Church, 2019, United Church.*