



West River United Church

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



Norma Hermann – Lay Leader

Andrea Rogers

and all members of West River United Church

Reign of Christ Sunday

December 30, 2018

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

ONE: May the God of joy live in your hearts!

(Please share the peace of Christ with each other)

♪ 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' VU 60 *(projected)*

OPENING PRAYER

ONE: Gracious and loving God, giver of the greatest gift of all, we thank and praise you for this holy and wondrous day. We praise you for the beauty of your world and the wisdom of your word and way. We thank you for circles of friends and families gathered in fellowship, gathered in love and peace, and gathered in worship. Most of all, we praise you for the gift of your son we receive and celebrate this day.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

ONE: First we light the candle of HOPE.

ALL: **Because Jesus is our hope.**

ONE: Second we light the candle of PEACE.

ALL: **Because Jesus is our peace.**

ONE: Third we light the candle of JOY.

ALL: **Because Jesus brings joy.**

ONE: Fourth we light the candle of LOVE.

ALL: **Because Jesus is love.**

ONE: Finally we light the center candle.

This is the Christ candle.

(...lover)

ALL: Jesus is born.
Jesus has come.
Jesus is our salvation.

SCRIPTURE READING 1

LUKE 1:26-31 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

♪ **'Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus'** – VU 2 (*projected*)

SCRIPTURE READING 2

LUKE 2:1-7 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

♪ **'What Child Is This'** – VU 74 (*projected*)

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ **'Away in a Manger'** – VU 69 (*projected*)

SCRIPTURE READING 3

LUKE 2:8-12 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. (*.../over*)

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

♪ **'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks'** – VU 75 (*projected*)

SCRIPTURE READING 4

LUKE 2:13-15 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

♪ **'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'** – VU 48 (*projected*)

SCRIPTURE READING 5

MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

♪ **'In the Bleak Midwinter'** – VU 55 vs 4 (*projected*)

DEDICATION (*in unison*)

ALL: Gracious and Giving God, we thank you for the many blessings and answered prayers we have received and we respond with humble gratitude. As we reach out beyond ourselves, may what we have to share be blessings and answered prayer for someone else. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING 6

JOHN 1: 1-5, 10-14 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

♪ **'Silent Night'** – VU 67 (*projected*)

SCRIPTURE READING 7

ISAIAH 9: 6 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PRAYER

♪ **'Good Christian Friends, Rejoice'** – VU 35 (*projected*)

BENEDICTION

ONE: In our busyness may we know the peace of God;
In our struggles may we know the grace of Christ;
In our striving to be faithful may we know the
enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

♪ **'Joy to the World'** VU 59 (*projected*)