



West River United Church

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



Rev. Keith MacPherson
and all members of West River United Church
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 17, 2019

PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

ONE: Let us greet one another with signs of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

(Please share the peace of Christ with each other)

♪ **'Yahweh Be Praised' MV 51** *(projected)*

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'** *(projected)*

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

ONE: Blessed are those who trust in God.

ALL: Plant us like a tree by the water. Send our roots toward the stream. Bear fruit in all we do, and make our leaves evergreen.

ONE: Delight in God, meditate on God's law day and night.

ALL: We praise God's holy name now and always.

ONE: Come, let us worship.

♪ **'Holy, Holy, Holy' – VU 315 vs 1 & 2** *(projected)*

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

ALL: Fount of Blessings, Blessed One, and Giving Spirit, fill our hearts and this space with the awareness of the gifts of your manifold grace. (...lover)

Help us to see in each person around us the gifts that will heal the world. Create in us a space for sharing our gifts. Connect us to each other and to you, the source of eternal blessing, so that we may bless this world without end; as together we say the prayer that Jesus taught:

**ALL: 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: Let us now prepare to share our gifts and our offerings to help our church do God's good work here in our community and around the world.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

♪ 'I Saw the Rich Ones' – MV 127 vs 1 and chorus (*projected*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER* (*in unison*)

ALL: Let these gifts be a consolation for all who are in need. Let us be more blessed by the giving than we have been blessed in receiving. And let us desire only the power of Christ's resurrecting love. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'And On This Path' – MV 8 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION* (*in unison*)

**ALL: God, you know our innermost being – the good and the bad, the joyful and the sad. Our hearts are devious above all else.
We do what we hate, and we often hate what we do.
Only you can understand us fully.
Only you will love us still. Help us to search our hearts,** (*...lover*)

and to do the things that we love so that we may be the love we wish to see in this world. May we, doing as love will dictate, be a blessing to ourselves and to others. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

ONE: God's trust is in you. God is worthy of your trust. You are the tree God plants next to the stream. Send out your roots and drink of the living water that God has provided. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JEREMIAH 17:5-10 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

⁵ Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

PSALM 1 VU 724

♪ **Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

ONE: Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners, or sit down among those who mock.

ALL: **But their delight is in the law of God, and on that law they meditate day and night.**

ONE: They are like trees planted beside streams of water, yielding their fruit in due season.

ALL: **Their leaves do not wither, and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

♪ **Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

ONE: As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

ALL: **but they are like the chaff, driven away by the wind.**

ONE: Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand when judgement comes, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

ALL: **For God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

♪ **Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

Luke 6: 17-26 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Keith MacPherson

HYMN VU 652 ‘Be Still, My Soul’ (projected)

♪ **‘Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands’ – MV 173 vs 1&2 (projected)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 481 ‘Sent Forth by God’s Blessing’ (projected)

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING*

ALL: Whether we have blessings or woes, each calls us into becoming more fully like Christ.

ONE: Each of you has a gift to give and a blessing to receive.

ALL: Let us live in the full expression of what it means to be blessed in a world that God created and blessed. Amen.

♪ **‘Halle, Halle, Halle’ – VU 958 (projected)**

**Seasons of the Spirit Advent. Christmas. Epiphany 2018-2019*