



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
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 27, 2019

*Bulletins today are in memory of
Vina Howard (January 26th 2003) and Arthur Howard (January 31st 2017)
Always loved and remembered by Norma; Lloyd and Families.*

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: Holy, loving Creator of all,

the heavens declare your goodness each day
and night proclaims your love.

ALL: **You call us to witness to your power and grace.**

ONE: You give us mouths to sing your praises,
hands and feet to do your will.

(...lover)

**ALL: You call us to proclaim the good news
of your reign.**

**ONE: We yearn to become your people, the body of Christ,
living for the sake of the world.**

ALL: Let us worship the God who calls us.

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

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

**ALL: Surprising, sustaining Giver of grace,
you make us part of your holy body,
awakening us with glimpses of your glory.
You allow us to see shadows of your astonishing beauty
in the deep, bright blue of the winter sky.
Your frosty breath leaves sheets of shimmering ice
on windshields and doorsteps.
You make our words write trails of steam
in the crisp morning air.
You invite us into your very breath—
as the Holy Spirit breaths us into awareness
of your loving presence.
In our prayers, in our songs, and in our silence,
teach us how to be your holy body,
to bring good news to world that yearns for you.
Together we say the words that Christ, taught saying,**

**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: As members of Christ's body, we are called to witness to the goodness of God, the goodness of creation, and the good news that Jesus proclaimed.

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: Persistent, embracing giver of life,
use these gifts and offerings to bring good news
to all who suffer or are oppressed. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION * (*in unison*)

**ALL: Holy One, we often forget to rejoice
in the gift of each new day.
We close our ears to the voices
of rivers and streams—
voices that sing your praises
day and night.
We close our eyes to the need of our neighbours,
and refuse to see their suffering and pain.
We close our hearts to your proclamations
of hope and freedom—
proclamations of good news
and release for all who live
in oppression and fear.
Forgive us when we keep your good gifts
closed tightly in our own fists.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

ONE: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and it shines into the world and scatters the darkness. Know that you are forgiven, forgive one another, be at peace and walk in the newness of life led by God's light.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM 19 VU 740-41

♪ **Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

ONE: The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

ALL: **One day speaks to another,
and night shares its knowledge with night,**

ONE: and this without speech or language;
and their voices are not heard.

ALL: **But their sound goes out to all the lands,
their words to the ends of the earth.**

♪ **Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

ONE: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,
like an athlete eager to run the race.

ALL: **Its rising is at one end of the sky,
it runs its course to the other, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

♪ **Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

ONE: God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul,

ALL: **God's instruction is sure, giving wisdom to the simple;**

ONE: God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

ALL: **God's commandment is pure, giving light to the eyes;**

ONE: God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

ALL: **God's judgements are true, every one of them righteous;**

ONE: more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;

ALL: **sweeter also than honey, pure honey from the comb.**

♪ **Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

ONE: By them is your servant warned;

ALL: **for in keeping them there is great reward.**

ONE: But who can discern unwitting sins?

ALL: **O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

ONE: Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,

(...lover)

lest they get the better of me.

**ALL: Then shall I be clean
and innocent of great offence.**

♪ Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!

**ALL: Let the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O God,
my strength and my redeemer.**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31A (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? (.../over)

Do all work miracles?

³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

LUKE 4:14-21 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

HYMN VU 238 'O Lord My God' (*projected*)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 326 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing' (*projected*)

BENEDICTION*

ONE: Go forth from this place in the freedom of Christ
and the transforming love of God.

Go forth from our time of worship in the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Go with grace and peace.

♪ **'Halle, Halle, Halle'** – VU 958 (*projected*)

Abingdon Worship Annual, 2019*, *D. Sparks, Prayers to Share*.