



# 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

Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2019

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## PRE-SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME

ONE: Rejoicing in the brightness of God's blessings, let us share signs of peace.

ALL: **The peace of Christ be 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: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God's goodness and grace has risen upon you.

ALL: **We come like the Magi, following the star of the Christ child.**

ONE: Arise, shine, for your moment has come, and the glory of God's love and mercy flows through you into the world.

ALL: **We come, to share the good news that Christ lives among us.**

ONE: Arise, shine, for you are called to be God's people, and to bring good news and great joy to a world that yearns for wholeness and peace.

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: Radiant God, light for all people and places, by the guidance of a star you led the Magi to worship the Christ Child. By the light of faith lead us to worship you in peace and love, and guide our way. We pray in the name of Christ, who taught us to say**

**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: Holy God of life and grace, we give you thanks for the word you have placed in our hearts, that shines like a star to guide our way. Help us to bring your brightness to the world and shine your love into in every place of shadow and fear.**

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: Bright, shining Maker of visions and dreams,  
accept the gifts we bring you this day,  
that they may shine like a star,  
brightening all the world with your grace. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

**ALL: God of mercy and loving-kindness,  
you sent Christ among us as a gift  
to be the light of the world  
and to reveal your love to all people.  
We confess that our sins and pride  
hide the brightness of your light;  
we waste our gifts,  
we ignore cries for justice,  
and we do not strive for peace.  
In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE \*\*

ONE: The Holy One fills us with the brightness of Christ,  
and makes us shine like a star in the deepest night.  
Be assured of God's love and forgiveness; begin again with God and with  
one another and be at peace.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**ISAIAH 60:1-6** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.  
<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**PSALM 72: 1-8, 10-14** (*VU P. 790*)

♫ **Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

ONE: Give the ruler your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal heir,

(...lover)

**ALL: for judging your people rightly,  
and upholding the poor with justice,**

**ONE: that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,**

**ALL: and the hills, prosperity with justice.**

♪ **Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

**ONE: May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,  
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

**ALL: May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,  
as long as the moon from age to age.**

**ONE: May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,  
like showers that water the earth;**

**ALL: may your anointed be one in whose days  
justice shall flourish and peace abound  
till the moon is no more.**

♪ **Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

**ONE: May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute,  
the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

**ALL: May all the rulers do homage, and all nations render service.**

**ONE: For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry,  
the poor and those who have no helper.**

**ALL: Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the needy,  
and save the lives of the poor.**

**ONE: From oppression and violence your anointed  
shall redeem their life,**

**ALL: and count as precious their blood.**

♪ **Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

**MATTHEW 2:1-12** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: (.../over)

6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

**HYMN VU 82 'A Light is Gleaming'** (*projected*)

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HYMN VU 87 'I Am the Light of the World'** (*projected*)

## BENEDICTION\*

ONE: Like the Magi who followed the star,  
let the light of God shine through you  
and in you and all around you.  
In the name of the Source of all light,  
the shining Spirit and the one, true Light;  
go in peace to love and serve the world.  
Amen

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

\*Abingdon Worship Annual, 2019, \*\* Presbyterian Worship Annual, 2019.