



West River United Church

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



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns
and all members of West River United Church
Lent 1
March 10, 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 1**

ONE: Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is a time when we remember the ministry of Jesus and the days that led up to his arrest and death on the cross. In some churches, people give up things for the season of Lent, in order to remember the sacrifices that Jesus made by living his life for God and for others. This Lent we are going to do something a bit different. Each week we are going to give you an invitation to a challenge for the week to come so that together we remember Jesus' ministry.

This week your challenge is to do an act of generosity. You might drop a five-dollar bill on the street and let someone pick it up, or buy a coffee for someone behind you in the line-up at Tim Horton's or give food to the foodbank or donate to a charity online. Who knows what you will come up with but this week find some act of generosity that is outside of what you usually do? . (The Christ candle is lit.)

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

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

ONE: Lent calls us to a time of reflection and growth.

ALL: **We come thirsting to deepen our relationship with God.**

ONE: Lent blesses us with time to nurture our faith in the Garden of God's love.

ALL: **We come ready and open to the refreshing rain of God's love.**

ONE: Let us worship God.

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

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

ALL: **Guide us today, O God, into a season of examination. Show us our ancestors' ways: journeying, even wandering, boldly; remembering deliberately who they were and who we are. Guide us inward to the Word felt in our hearts, and outward to the Word heard on the lips of others. Grant us a season of depth and courage, we pray. Amen. Together we pray as Christ 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: The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year,
as a time for us to remember Jesus' journey.
On that journey he met many people.
He laughed with them, he cried with them,
he taught them, and he learned from them.

(...lover)

But, most of all, he loved them,
not just with his words, but with his actions.
Jesus taught his followers that they were to
love one another as he had loved them.
Our offering is one way to do that,
to share the work of our hands and hearts
through our dollars and cents.
As you share what you are able,
you support the ministry here,
and the ministry of The United Church of Canada
through Mission and Service.
Let us celebrate what God has given,
and what we have to share.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER**** (*in unison*)

**ALL: We do not live on bread alone,
but by your Word, loving God.
May that Word fill our hearts and our hands,
all that we have, and all that we are,
that it may be a blessing in your world.
In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ **'God Loves Me'** – MV 107 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

ONE: God loves us and wants our lives to be filled with blessings. Let us join our hearts, minds, and voices together in common confession to God.

**ALL: God of life, you bless us with so many gifts.
You call us to care for one another, and to care for all creation.
Sometimes it's tempting for us to look for happiness in the wrong places.**

(...lover)

**Sometimes we think that the things we could have,
or the things we could do, would make us happy.
Forgive us when we lose focus.
In this Lenten season, bring us closer to you, O God.
Fill our lives with your presence.
Help us to focus our attention on what matters most. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE*

ONE: Hear the good news. God's love never ends. We are a forgiven people.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM 91VU P. 807 (New Revised Standard Version)

♪ **“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

ONE: You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
who abide in this shadow for life,

ALL: **say to the Lord: “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!”**

ONE: The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:

ALL: **under God’s wings your refuge,
God’s faithfulness your shield.**

♪ **“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

ONE: You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;

ALL: **though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.**

ONE: For to the angels is given a command
to guard you in all your ways;

ALL: **upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

♪ **“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

ONE: Because they have set their love upon me I will deliver them,

ALL: **I will uphold them because they know my name.**

ONE: When they call to me I will answer,

ALL: **I will be with them in trouble;**

ONE: I will rescue and bring them to honour.

(...lover)

**ALL: With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my saving power.**

♪ **“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

LUKE 4:1-13 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, "One does not live by bread alone.' " ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " ¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

HYMN VU 115 ‘Jesus, Tempted in the Desert’ (projected)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 343 ‘I Love to Tell the Story’ (projected)

BENEDICTION*

ONE: Begin your Lenten journey,

ALL: God goes with us to guide our way.

ONE: Let us go forth with grace and love!

ALL: We go as God's people. Amen.

♪ 'Amen' – VU 967 (*projected*)

**Whole People of God, 2019, Lent., **L/E Gathering 2019 pg. 66, S. Browning.*

**** The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2019. ****Called to Be Church, 2019, United Church.*