



# 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

Lent 2

March 17, 2019

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## 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 2\*

ONE: Today is the second Sunday in Lent. Last week we invited everyone to do a random act of generosity. This week our challenge is to express gratitude. We would like you to make a point of saying thanks to someone who you don't often thank in your life. It might be a stranger or someone you see regularly. Try to do this once a day. The other part of the challenge is to make a list every day of at least three things for which you feel grateful. You might list things you see in nature, things that happen throughout your day, or people that you encounter. Try to make it different every day and be more specific than just saying "friends and family." So that is your challenge for this week.

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

♪ **'Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights' VU 108 vs 1 & 2**  
*(projected)*

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

ONE: Let us worship God.

ALL: **We worship God in this place and in all our living.**

ONE: Be strong and let your hearts take courage.

ALL: **We trust God in this place and in all our living.**

ONE: God will shelter you in times of trouble.

ALL: **We thank God in this place and in all our living.**

ONE: Come 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: **Ever present and ever loving God,  
in this time of worship,  
we discover once again who you are in our lives.  
We have gathered to praise you,  
to sing for joy and to rekindle our faith with your love.  
You hold us close and shelter us under your wings  
as a bird shelters her young.  
Speak to us now O God.  
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.

In that meeting, they were blessed.

In that blessing, many of them were changed.

In that change, many of them shared what they had experienced.

In that sharing, they changed the world.

We are disciples of Christ, blessed by his teaching  
and blessed by his love.

So, let's share who we are and what we have,  
that, in that sharing, we would be part  
of blessing God's world.

Let us gather together what we are able to offer!

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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

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

**ALL: God of all creation,  
we know that  
all that we have,  
all that we are,  
is blessed and blessing.  
In this sharing,  
we add our blessing to yours.  
May all of these blessings  
bring hope and healing to your world.  
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'Like a Rock' – MV 92 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*(*in unison*)

**ALL: Generous God, we do not always act in ways that show how we are  
connected to all of creation.**

**We do not always act as though we need each other. (*...lover*)**

**We do not always act as though we need you.  
We do not always share the love that we receive from you.  
Grant us the strength we need to live as a just and compassionate  
community.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE\*

ONE: We are loved. We are forgiven. God's life-giving Word continually helps us to find new possibilities for the choices we make as we live in the world. Thanks be to God for this good news!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**GENESIS 12:1–4** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

**PSALM 27 VU 754** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

♪ **God is my light and saving health,  
I shall not be afraid.**

ONE: God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

ALL: **God is the stronghold of my life,  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

ONE: When the wicked close in to devour me,

ALL: **it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.**

ONE: If an army should encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid;

ALL: **if war should arise against me,  
even then I will not be dismayed.**

♪ **God is my light and saving health,  
I shall not be afraid.**

ONE: One thing I have asked of God, for which I long:  
that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**ALL: to gaze on your beauty, O God,  
and to seek you in your temple.**

ONE: For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**ALL: you will hide me under the cover of your tent,  
You will set me high upon a rock.**

ONE: And now you have raised my head  
above my enemies round about me.

**ALL: Therefore I will offer in your dwelling  
a sacrifice with great gladness.**

♪ **God is my light and saving health,  
I shall not be afraid.**

ONE: Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.  
Your face, O God, I seek.

**ALL: Do not hide your face from me;  
do not reject your servant in anger,  
you who have been my helper.**

ONE: Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**ALL: Though my father and mother forsake me,  
my God will take me up.**

♪ **God is my light and saving health,  
I shall not be afraid.**

ONE: Teach me your way, O God.

**ALL: lead me on a level path,  
safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

ONE: Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

**ALL: for liars and false witnesses arise against me.**

ONE: I believe that I shall see God's goodness  
in the land of the living.

**ALL: Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;  
yes, wait for God!**

♪ **God is my light and saving health,  
I shall not be afraid.**

**LUKE 13:31-35** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."<sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!

How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

**HYMN VU 217 'All Creatures of Our God and King' (projected)**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HYMN VU 642 'Be Thou My Vision' (projected)**

BENEDICTION\*\*\*

ONE: Go forth in hope:

**ALL: The Lord is our light and our salvation.**

**In God, we are not afraid.**

ONE: Go forth in courage:

**ALL: The Lord is our shelter from the storm.**

**In God, we dwell secure.**

ONE: Go forth in peace:

**ALL: The Lord embraces us in the arms of love.**

**In God, we find our true home.**

♪ **'Amen' – VU 967** (*projected*)

*\*L/E Gathering 2019 pg. 66, S. Browning., \*\*Whole People of God, 2019, Lent., \*\*\* The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2019. \*\*\*\*Called to Be Church, 2019, United Church.*