



# 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 3

March 24, 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 3\*

ONE: Today is the third Sunday in Lent. The first week we asked everyone to do a random act of generosity. Last week we asked everyone to express gratitude to someone they don't usually thank and to name three things for which they were grateful every day. This week our challenge is to pray for the world. Every day, we would like you to spend some time praying for someone or some situation that needs prayer. Or you might pray for someone with whom you are having a difficult relationship or someone with whom you just don't see eye to eye. Take some time every day to pray for that person, or simply send them love and compassion. So that is your challenge for this week.

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

♪ **'Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights' VU 108 vs 1 - 3** *(projected)*

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

ONE: We are holy ground.

ALL: **We are tended by a loving Gardener.**

ONE: Help us, God, to respect ourselves as holy ground so that we may bear good fruit.

ALL: **Let your word, O God, grow deep roots within us.**

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: **Faithful God, our parched spirits thirst for you.**

**Gathered here in your sanctuary,**

**may we witness again**

**your power and glory.**

**Feed our hungry souls**

**with the food that truly satisfies.**

**Quench our dry mouths**

**and fill them with your praise.**

**Be known to us here,**

**as we seek you with our whole being. 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: Generous God, your faithful love  
is a constant blessing.  
As we have been blessed,  
so may we now be a blessing to others.

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 the universe, the earth and all the air, water, soil, plants and animals are gifts that surround us. Because of them, we live and eat, and without them we have nothing. We give this offering as a small symbol of our thankfulness and our hope to do good with what we have. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'Like a Rock' – MV 92 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*(*in unison*)

**ALL: O Life that surges through all things,  
Source of every living thing,  
We confess that we often lose touch  
with the unique worth of the life each of us has to live.  
We often fail to see the beauty in people and in the world.  
Open our eyes and our hearts, that your refreshing Spirit may touch us  
again. call us once again to a new way. Inspire us so that we may bear  
the fresh fruit of new vision and renewed hope. Amen.**

INDUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

ONE: We are gathered as a faithful Community to celebrate and recognize the gifts of our existing council members who are called for service of God in this place, our church. We ask that you please stand if you are an existing council member or one who has agreed to continue on for a second term. We also at this time invite the new council members to come to the front to be inducted: Darlene Hennessey, Gloria Turner, Gloria Fullerton, Cheryl Jewell, Dale Yeo and Barry Wilson.

ONE: Friends in Christ we celebrate and give thanks to these people who have responded to the call of council member. Who are willing to offer leadership, time, and gifts on our behalf for the work and life of the church. It is a responsibility that they accept and we give thanks and recognition for. We thank each of you for responding to the call and know that you will offer your best to God, and to all of God's people.

ONE: As you come to respond to this call of service and accept the responsibility that it entails, let us in the presence of God and this congregation, ask for God's grace and blessings as we covenant together.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, will you continue to live out your faith with integrity seeking God's path in your living and as your work as elder for the church? Will you carry out your responsibilities and duties in this congregation with openness and trust?

**COUNCIL MEMBERS: With God's help I will.**

ONE: Having chosen these people as your representatives on council will you join with them in ministry within this congregation and beyond and will you support and pray for them as they serve among us? Will you honour the leadership and gifts offered by them? So that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ?

**ALL: We will with God's help.**

#### PRAYER

ONE: Let us Pray, O God, we have made covenants with these good people who you have called to be council members at West River United Church. We give thanks to you for them and pray that you will bless the gifts that they share, the leadership they offer, and help them to meet their ministries with grace. We pray O God that you will guide us wisely along your path by the gift of your Holy Spirit, that we may grow in love and understanding through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### DECLARATION

ONE: In the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we affirm and celebrate you in your ministry on council in this Congregation. My God Bless You all. Amen.

*(Shake Hands)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE\*

ONE: Hear the good news God says: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; even now it springs forth. God forgives our sins and promises us newness of life.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**PSALM 63:1-8 VU 781** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

♪ **My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God.**

ONE: You are my God, I long for you from early morning.  
My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land.  
My soul thirsts for you.

**ALL: In the sanctuary let me see  
how mighty are your works;  
your constant love is better than life itself,  
and so I will praise you.**

♪ **My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God.**

ONE: I will give thanks as long as I live;  
I raise my hands in prayer.

**ALL: My soul will feast and be filled,  
And I will sing and praise you.**

♪ **My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God.**

ONE: As I lie in bed, I remember you, O God;  
I think of you all night long,  
For you are my constant help.

**ALL: In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
I cling to you; your hand keeps me safe.**

♪ **My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God.**

**LUKE 13:1-9** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup> He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

**HYMN VU 227 'For the Fruit of All Creation' (projected)**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HYMN VU 703 'In the Bulb There Is a Flower'(projected)**

BENEDICTION\*\*\*

ONE: Our search for God continues.

**ALL: Our hunger and thirst will return.**

ONE: Seek God in all places.

Seek God with your whole being.

**ALL: We will call on God**

**and know that God is near.**

♪ **'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.*