



LENT





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 4

March 31, 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 4*

ONE: Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent. Last week we invited everyone to pray for a situation in the world. This week our challenge is to find some way to share your faith. We would like you to make a point of sharing your faith with someone else. One way to share your faith would be by inviting someone to come to our church next Sunday or some Sunday in the near future. You could tell them what church you go to, offering them a ride so they can come with you.

Another way might be to tell someone that you are praying for them or to ask them if it is ok if you pray for them. You could also bring them a prayer shawl from our church if they are struggling and tell them that it is to remind them of God's presence. These are just a few ways we can share our faith with others. Don't be limited to sharing your faith with just friends and family; try to share your faith with a stranger.

(...lover)

You may be surprised by how much they appreciate knowing that you are someone who believes that faith in God can make a difference in our lives. So that is your challenge for the coming week.
(*The Christ candle is lit.*)

♪ **'Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights' VU 108 vs 1 - 4** (*projected*)

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

ONE: To those who eagerly came to worship God,

ALL: **you are welcome here.**

ONE: To those who grumbled about coming,

ALL: **you are welcome here.**

ONE: To those who are not sure why they are here,

ALL: **you are welcome here.**

ONE: In the name the One who loves and forgives us,
you are welcome in this place.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

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

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

ALL: **Creating God,**

we gather now in your presence.

To worship you with songs and praise.

We come to celebrate and shout!

Great is God!

And greatly to be praised

Let us worship God

Now and always. 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

(*...lover*)

**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: In thanksgiving and praise, let us bring our gifts
to God.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER*** (*in unison*)

**ALL: We offer these gifts to you,
asking for your blessing upon them,
that they bring comfort and healing
to your children around the globe.
We offer our lives to you,
asking for your blessing upon us,
that we might be faithful to you,
and to one another.
In your precious and holy name, we pray. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'Like a Rock' – MV 92 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

ONE: O God, you love us and long for our return

Forgive us when we forget to turn to you in our need.

ALL: There are no limits to your love. (*Stretch arms out wide.*)

ONE: Forgive us for worshiping the false gods of money, power, and popularity.

ALL: There are no limits to your love. (*Stretch arms out wide.*)

ONE: Forgive us for hurting one another.

ALL: There are no limits to your love. (*Stretch arms out wide.*)

ONE: Forgive us for saying we love you and yet failing to act on that love.

ALL: There are no limits to your love. (*Stretch arms out wide.*)

ONE: In this Lenten season, remind us once again, God, to love you with our whole hearts.

ALL: There are no limits to your love. (*Stretch arms out wide.*)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ONE: There are no limits to the love of God. In that love we are forgiven and made whole.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM 32 VU 759 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

♪ **Be glad in God you righteous.**

Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

ONE: Blessed are those whose offenses are forgiven,
whose sin has been put away.

**ALL: Blessed are those to whom God imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

♪ **Be glad in God you righteous.**

Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

ONE: When I kept silence, my body wasted away,
while I groaned all the day long.

**ALL: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my strength dried up as in a summer drought.**

ONE: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I did not hide.

**ALL: I said: 'I will confess my sins to God';
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

ONE: Therefore let the faithful pray to you in time of trouble;

ALL: when great floodwater rises, it shall not come near them.

ONE: You are a hiding place for me, you will preserve me from trouble;

ALL: you will surround me with shouts of deliverance.

♪ **Be glad in God you righteous.**

Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

ONE: I will teach you, and guide you in the way you should go.

ALL: I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.

ONE: Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,

ALL: whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

ONE: Many pains are in store for the wicked,

ALL: **but whoever trusts in God, is surrounded by steadfast love.**

♪ **Be glad in God you righteous.**

Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

LUKE 15: 1-3, 11-32 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father,

(...lover)

"Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹ Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

HYMN VU 556 'Would You Bless Our Homes and Families' (projected)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 716 'My Life Flows On' (projected)

BENEDICTION****

ONE: The peace of Christ holds us,
the love of the Creator enfolds us,
and the wings of the Holy Spirit carry us,
today and always.
Amen!

♪ '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.*