



# 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

Fifth Sunday after Easter Sunday, May 19, 2019

Blessing of the Seeds, Water, and Rural Life Sunday

---

## PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME\*

ONE: We are Easter people; let us greet one another in the name of Christ.

(Please share the peace of Christ)

♪ 'I Can Feel You Near Me God' MV 48 (*projected*)

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (*in unison*)

ALL: **The light of Christ shines as a promise of love. For this we give thanks.  
Hallelujah!**

♪ 'Open Our Hearts' MV 21 (*projected*)

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

ONE: Loving God, Creator and Sustainer,

ALL: **May you be praised forever!**

ONE: You made us for your good purposes, to be stewards of your good creation.

ALL: **May you be praised forever! We come to worship you this day.**

♪ 'Rejoice the Lord is King' – VU 213 vs 1 & 4 (*projected*)

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

ALL: **God of creation, we thank you for the gift of the earth, for water and for the life which teems upon the land, in the waters, and in the air. Thank you for the wonder of life that you have entrusted to us in all its complexity, interconnectedness and biodiversity. Be with us now as we celebrate our rural life with its water, soil and seeds. This we pray in faith, in the name of Jesus the Son, Amen.**

**Together, we pray as Jesus 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: Our lives overflow with blessing and goodness, gifts which come from God. Out of the bounty of our lives, let us present to God our gifts and offerings with overflowing thankfulness.

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

♪ **'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' – VU 541** (*projected*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER\* (*in unison*)

ALL: **Gracious God, on this blessing of the seeds and water Sunday, we are grateful for the many blessings you give us. Accept our gifts that they may in turn be a blessing for others. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ **'Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!' – MV 121 vs 1 & 5**(*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION\* (*in unison*)

ALL: **Gracious God, we remember with gratitude the gift of your creation, but we confess that we have often exploited, neglected, or harmed the earth and its goodness. We remember our freedom to seed and plant, (...lover)**

**and our calling to farm well, so that we people of God may flourish and know your blessing. We confess that we have often acted in our own interests alone, and your gifts have not born the fruit you intended. Have mercy on us. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE\*

ONE: God's gifts are to all humankind. We are God's co-workers and co-stewards with God's blessing. When we err, God's mercy offers us forgiveness and renewal.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP - Welcome Jim and Cathy Parsons

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**GENESIS 1: 29 – 31A** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>29</sup> God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2 CORINTHIANS 9: 6 – 11** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns; Message: We “plough” for God’s blessings

BLESSING OF THE SEED, SOIL & WATER

THE FARMER'S CREED

**ALL: I believe a person's greatest possession is their dignity, and that no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.**

**I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person's character.**

**I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honorable way a person can spend their days on this earth.**

**I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth and maturity in such a variety of ways.**

**I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free; the splendor of a sunrise, the rapture of wide open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.**

**I believe true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field and your children grow tall in the sun.**

**I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for my fellow man.**

**I believe in farming, because it makes all this possible.**

**HYMN VU 296 'This Is God's Wondrous World** *(projected)*

**♪ 'And When You Call for Me' – MV 96** *(projected)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HYMN MV 135 'Called by Earth and Sky'** *(projected)*

BENEDICTION\* *(in unison)*

**ALL: May the hope of God surround us,  
the love of God enfold us,  
the power of God protect us,  
the presence of God watch over us,  
the Spirit of God live in us. Amen.**

**♪ 'You Shall Go Our with Joy' – VU 884** *(projected)*

*\*Mary Fletcher, Ontario.*