



# West River United Church

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



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Andrea Rogers Family & Youth Coordinator

Lay Reader: Larry Hale

and all members of West River United Church

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2021

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*Bulletins today are in memory of  
Vina Howard (January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003) and Arthur Howard (January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017)  
Always loved and remembered by Norma, Lloyd and Families.*

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## PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME\*

ONE: Let us share signs of love with one another as we share the peace of Christ.

*(Please share the peace of Christ with a friendly wave)*

### ♪ This Is the Day – MV 122

**This is the day that God has made  
we will rejoice and be glad (X2)  
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!  
We will rejoice and be glad! (X2)**

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (IN UNISON)

**ALL: The light of Christ shows us a brighter path to walk. So, let us live in  
the brightness God has given. *(The Christ candle is lit.)***

### ♪ Christ Be Our Light

**Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

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

ONE: You call us together,

ALL: **As a Christian community.**

ONE: You inspire us to prayer and praise,

ALL: **As brothers and sisters in the faith.**

ONE: You challenge us to listen and learn,

ALL: **As searchers for the truth.**

ONE: You invite us to support each other,

ALL: **As compassionate friends.**

ONE: You confront us,

ALL: **With the injustice of our neighborhood and nation.**

ONE: You send us out,

ALL: **To show the face of Christ to a hurting world. Amen.**

♪ **All Who Are Thirsty – MV 4**

**All who are thirsty,  
all who are weak,  
come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow  
be washed away  
in the waves of God's mercy  
as deep cries out to deep.  
We sing Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

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

ALL: **Loving God, we know that we are all different: women, men, girls, boys,  
tall, short, old and young and in between. We know, too, that you love  
all your people, and that you created our differences. We pray this day  
for the unity of all Christians – not that we be the same, or worship the  
same, or believe the same, but that we reach out together to celebrate the**

**love of Christ in our hurting world. In Jesus name we pray and together 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.**

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING\*

ONE: We bring our gifts to God this day to offer our love and commitment to bring justice, hope and new beginnings.

♫ **Lord Prepare Me – MV 18** *please stand as you are able*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true –  
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
sanctuary for you. (repeat)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*in unison*)

**ALL: May these gifts serve as a proclamation of your grace and may these offerings put our words into action as disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

MINUTES FOR MISSION

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Draw the circle wide.  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song,  
no one stands alone,  
standing side by side,  
draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms. (R)

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call. (R)

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door. (R)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*\*\*

ONE: When we are in community, Loving God,

ALL: **we will be aware of the joys and frustrations of those around us.** (*Silent reflection*)

ONE: When we are in community, Loving God,

ALL: **we will be aware of the gifts and talents of community members and encourage their use.** (*Silent reflection*)

ONE: When we are in community, Loving God,

ALL: **we will plan and work to bring Good News to our neighborhood.** (*Silent reflection*)

ONE: When we are in community, Loving God,

ALL: **we will take the love of Christ to heart, and show the love of Christ to the downhearted, the oppressed, the bewildered, and those who feel trapped.** (*Silent reflection*)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE \*

ONE: God's Spirit rests upon us. It is the spirit of forgiveness, not judgement;  
the spirit of grace, not condemnation; the spirit of welcome, not exclusion.

ALL: **Today, and in all the days to come, God's Spirit is with us. Thanks be to  
the One who is our joy and strength. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**PSALM 91 - VU 740-741**

♪ **"Glory and praise to God whose work brings life!**

ONE: The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork,

ALL: **One day speaks to another,  
and the night shares its knowledge with night.**

ONE: and this without speech or language;  
Their voices are not heard.

ALL: **But their sound goes out to all the lands,  
Their words to the ends of the earth.**

♪ **"Glory and praise to God whose work brings life!**

ONE: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun  
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,  
like an athlete eager to run the race.

ALL: **Its rising is at one end of the sky,  
it runs its course to the other,  
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.**

ONE: God's law is perfect; refreshing the soul,

ALL: **God's instruction is sure,  
Giving wisdom to the simple;**

ONE: God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

ALL: **God's commandment is pure  
Giving light to the eyes;**

ONE: God's fear is clean, enduring forever,,

ALL: **God's judgements are true,  
every one of the righteous;**

ONE: more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;

**ALL: sweeter also than honey,  
pure honey from the comb.**

**♪ “Glory and praise to God whose work brings life!**

ONE: By them is your servant warned;

**ALL: for in keeping them there is great reward.**

ONE: But who can discern unwitting sins?

**ALL: O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

ONE: Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
lest they get the better of me.

**ALL: Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence.**

**♪ “Glory and praise to God whose work brings life!**

**ALL: Let the words of my mouth  
and the thought of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O God,  
my strength and my redeemer.**

**LUKE 4:14-21** (*New Revised Standard*)

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

### **HYMN VU 626 'I Heard the Voice of Jesus'**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad,  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down, and drink, and live.'  
I came to Jesus and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.**

SERMON – Dramatic Monologue created by Rev. Catherine MacDonald

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## HYMN VU 330 'Jesus Shall Reign'

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
peculiar honours to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

BENEDICTION \*\*\*\*

ONE: Go into the world, listening for God's call in your lives. Go into the world, ready to follow Jesus Christ. Go into the world, sustained by the love and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

♪ **Go Now In Peace**

**Go now in peace.**

**Never be afraid.**

**God will go with you  
each hour of ev'ry day.**

**Go now in faith,**

**steadfast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you  
in all you do.**

**Go now in love,**

**and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others  
so all the world can see.  
God will be there  
watching from above.  
Go now in peace,  
in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*\*Whole People of God, 2019.*

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