

WEPC Lectionary Project: Union with Christ

In this 25th Anniversary year of West End Presbyterian Church, we are using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship, and our personal and family devotion. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

WEPC Weekly Readings

To subscribe to a daily email of these readings, register online at wepc.org/lectionary.

September 1, 2019 | Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost: Ordinary Time

Proverbs 25:6-7

Do Not Stand in the Place of the Great

Psalms 112

The Righteous are Merciful

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let Brotherly Love Continue

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Humbled & Exalted

Reflection on Sunday, September 1

Monday

II Chronicles 12:1-12

Rehoboam Humbled Himself

Hebrews 13:7-21

The Humble Life

Tuesday

Isaiah 2:12-17

Brought Low

Titus 1:1-9

Humble Leaders

Wednesday

Isaiah 57:14-21

I Dwell with the Contrite

Luke 14:15-24

Banquet for the Humble

Daily

Psalms 119:65-72

Humble Before the LORD

Preparation for Sunday, September 8

Thursday

Genesis 39:1-23

How Then Can I Do This Great Wickedness?

Philippians 2:25-30

A Faithful Brother

Friday

Deuteronomy 7:12-26

The Way of Obedience

Colossians 4:7-17

Faithful Brothers

Saturday

Deuteronomy 29:2-20

A Renewed Covenant

Matthew 10:34-42

The Cost of Discipleship

Daily

Psalms 1

Delight in the Law of the LORD

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

The Lord says that He will never leave us or forsake us and that He is our Helper. Sometimes, I would trade His presence for comfort or ease or happiness. You see, while Jesus will never leave us, it does not mean we will never struggle.

We will have very difficult days even while the Lord is present with us. He does not promise ease or a stress-free life. He promises to be with us, to help us and ultimately deliver us from all our troubles.

We can rest in that promise because He never changes.

Warmly,
Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM
Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNION

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time." Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in His glory as King of all.

THE GOOD LIFE

"All Joy reminds. It is never a possession, always a desire for something longer ago or further away or still about to be."

C.S. Lewis

"In God's Home there is an everlasting party...The choirs of angels keep eternal festival, for the eternally present face of God is joy never diminished."

Augustine of Hippo

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 34:1-3, 8-10

The First Word

Because we believe God initiates with sinners, we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints,
for those who fear Him have no lack!

**The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

MAY THE MIND OF CHRIST MY SAVIOR

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

2. May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

3. May the peace of God, my Father,
Rule my life in everything.
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

4. May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self-abasing
This is victory.

5. May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win;
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

6. May we run the race before us,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As we onward go.

*"Let this mind be in you
which is also in Christ Jesus."
-Philippians 2:5*

Text: Kate B. Wilkinson
(1925); Tune: A.Cyril
Barham-Gould (1925)

Welcome

*Visitors, we are glad you are here. Following the service, please join
Pastor Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.*

Covenant BAPTISM (10:30am)

Christopher Paul Heelan

GOSPEL READING

One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully...Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Luke 14:1, 7-14

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Psalm 112

Praise the LORD!

**Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in His commandments!**

His offspring will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

**It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.**

For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered forever.

**He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.**

His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

**He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.**

The wicked man sees it and is angry;
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
the desire of the wicked will perish!

Pray for Our Church, Our City, and the World. This week:

- For West End Presbyterian Church: That we would know that God is good, and all good things come from His hand.
- Pray for the Schools & Educational Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all Superintendents, School Boards, School Administrators, PTA's, Teachers, Students & Staff.
- For Church Planting in Metro Richmond: For WEPC daughter churches Northside Church of Richmond (Northside Richmond City, 2011) Crown & Joy Presbyterian Church (Southside Richmond City, 2014).

OFFERING

If you missed today's offering and wish to give, or if you would like to submit your tear-off, the elders at the front of the sanctuary who are available for prayer following the service will be glad to receive them.

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God (Rom. 12:1).

SONG OF PRAISE

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Praise the Lord

His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness, new every morn

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

“You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.” -Micah 7:19

Music and words by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa.
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 AM)

Pastor Joe Brown

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear;

what can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/sermons.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

from Mark 14:16-25

CONFESSION OF SIN

You have declared, O God, the Good News, but we have been slow to listen. Lord, forgive our distant, doubting hearts. At times we seek Your blessing, but have no love for You. We are like those who witnessed Jesus' miracles of healing and heard His proclamation, yet somehow spurned belief. We confess that our dull unbelief tempts others and offends You. Heavenly Father, forgive us our sin. Renew us in Your Spirit that with open hearts we may turn to Jesus and live His good life in longing for Your Kingdom's coming. Amen.

Silent Confession

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts are worshipping something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Who is a God like our God, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:18-19

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

Wine is in the outer ring of the communion tray, grape juice is in the inner rings. All bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, raise your hand and we will come to you at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper.

Elders & Deacons are glad to pray for your children who have not yet become communing members. If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please mark today's tear-off or contact the WEPC office.

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

HERE, O MY LORD

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen.
Here grasp with firmer hand, eternal grace;
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need,
No other Arm save Thine to lean upon;
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing Blood.
Here is my Robe, Thy Gift, my Refuge, Peace,
Thy Blood, Thy Righteousness, O Lord, my God;
Thy Blood, Thy Righteousness, O Lord, my God.

*"Is it not a participation in Christ?" -1 Corinthians 10:16
Horatius Bonar (1808-1889); Music by Alex Mejias; © 2009 High Street Hymns; CCLI #708363*

YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain.

*For I am with you, I am with you
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you,
Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain.*

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown.

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
For all that is old will at last be made new:
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
And all that is broken be healed.

*"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
-1 Corinthians 15:58*

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LET US LOVE AND SING AND WONDER

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood, (3x)
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood (3x)
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
You have washed us with Thy blood (3x)
You are worthy Lamb of God

*"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood... to Him be glory and power for ever and ever!" -Revelation 1:5-6
John Newton, 1774; Tune: Laura Taylor @ 2001, Laura Taylor Music; Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI #708363*

DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."
– Psalm 150:6*

*Text: Thomas Ken (1709)
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH
(Bourgeois, 1551)*

What does "doxology" mean?

It's derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

BENEDICTION

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you or for you, and to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Director of Neighborhood Outreach, Changjwok Deng, led worship. Pastor Joe Brown administered the sacrament of baptism. Music was led by Pastor Kevin Greene, along with Robin Huff, Andrew Bogle, Tyler Pease, Karl Kuder, Becca Wethered, and Harrison Weippert.