

# WEPC Lectionary Project: Union with Christ

In this 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://wepc.org/lectionary).

### September 8, 2019 | Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost: Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
*Life & Good, Death & Evil*

Psalms 1  
*Delight in the Law of the LORD*

Philemon 1:1-21  
*Yet for Love's Sake*

Luke 14:25-33  
*His Own Cross*

---

### Reflection on Sunday, September 8

#### Monday

II Kings 17:24-41  
*Idolatry*

I Timothy 3:14-4:5  
*The Church of the Living God*

#### Tuesday

II Kings 18:9-18  
*They Neither Listened nor Obeyed*

I Timothy 4:6-16  
*Trained in the Words of the Faith*

#### Wednesday

II Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7  
*Hezekiah Repents*

Luke 18:18-30  
*Then Who Can Be Saved?*

#### Daily

Psalms 101  
*Walk with Integrity of Heart*

### Preparation for Sunday, September 15

#### Thursday

Genesis 6:1-6  
*Evil Continually*

I Timothy 1:1-11  
*Speculations Rather Than the Stewardship*

#### Friday

Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5  
*But God Remembered Noah*

II Peter 2:1-10a  
*The Lord Knows How to Rescue*

#### Saturday

Genesis 8:20-9:7  
*I Will Require a Reckoning*

John 10:11-21  
*I Lay Down My Life*

#### Daily

Psalms 51:1-10  
*Have Mercy*

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

What or who do you grasp so tightly that you cannot imagine letting go? How about what people think of you? What if you took a risk and set aside your reputation by showing your neighbors who you really are? Letting people around you know that you are a follower of Jesus could be a wonderful and affirming (by your neighbors) experience or it could expose you to indifference or worse reputational damage.

Loving your neighbor enough to tell them who you really are and who Jesus is to you is risky because it is a way to love. Love always demands a response and you and I cannot control the response of others when we love them.

Nevertheless, it is precisely in those moments of costly risk that Jesus becomes most dear to us. Are you a bit cold spiritually? Does your life lack spiritual power? Maybe you and I are grasping onto something other than Jesus and have become so risk averse, faith means little to us.

Count the cost, but take the risk.

Warmly,  
Steve

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

9008 Quioccasin Road, Richmond, VA 23229  
(804) 741.6562 | [mail@wepc.org](mailto:mail@wepc.org)  
website: [wepc.org](http://wepc.org)

PCA | [pcanet.org](http://pcanet.org)

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNION

### **Thirteenth 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.

*Philippians 2:5-11*

### **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.

### **MY DISCIPLE**

"With good intentions and sincere desires to reach as many people as possible for Jesus, we have subtly and deceptively minimized the magnitude of what it means to follow Him. We've replaced challenging words from Christ with trite phrases in the church. We've taken the lifeblood out of Christianity and put Kool-Aid in its place so that it tastes better to the crowds, and the consequences are catastrophic."

*David Platt*

"Discipleship does not come first, but grace...it begins with joy over being loved."

*Søren Kierkegaard*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

**But emptied Himself,  
by taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.**

And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Therefore God has highly exalted Him  
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,**

So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## INVOCATION

# SONG OF ADORATION

## REJOICE THE LORD IS KING

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing  
And triumph evermore  
And triumph evermore

*Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice,  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

The Lord, the Savior, reigns!  
The God of truth and love  
When He had purged our stains  
He took His seat above  
He took His seat above

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Our Lord, the King will come  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home  
To their eternal home

*"Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, rejoice."  
-Philippians 4:4  
© 2009 5PM Records.  
Words by Charles Wesley  
(1744); Music by Alex  
Mejias. CCLI #708363*

## Welcome

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

## MISSIONS UPDATE

*Renewal RVA, Anne Creasy*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."*

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

# MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 1*

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on His law he meditates day and night.

**He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.**

The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church: That we would be granted faith, courage, discernment, and love as followers of Lord Jesus.
- Pray for the schools & educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all public, private, home, and religious schools. For students, teachers, support personnel, cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school bus drivers. For all pre-schools and day care centers, and for students in home schools.
- For Church Planting in Metro Richmond: For the James River Presbytery's Hispanic Leadership Development Commission, the African-American Church Planter Fund, and the Metro Richmond Church Planting Network.

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).

## 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.*

# SONG OF PRAISE

## STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

See, from Zion's sacred mountain,  
Streams of Living Water flow.  
God has opened there a Fountain  
That supplies the plains below.

*They are blessed, They are blessed  
Who Its sovereign virtues know.*

Through ten thousand channels flowing,  
Streams of mercy find their way.  
Life and health and joy bestowing  
Making all around unstained.

*O believer, O believer  
All your sins are washed away.*

Gladdened by the flowing Treasure  
All enriching as It goes.  
Lo, the desert smiles with pleasure  
Buds and blossoms as the rose.

*Every sinner, every sinner  
Sings for joy where'er It flows.*

Trees of life the banks adorning,  
Yield their fruit to all around.  
Those who eat are saved from mourning,  
Pleasure comes and hopes abound.

*Fair their portion, Fair their portion  
Endless Life with glory crowned.*

*"Whoever believes in me, as  
the Scripture has said, 'Out of  
his heart will flow rivers of living  
water.'" -John 7:38*

© 2004 Red Mountain Music  
www.redmountainmusic.com  
Lyrics: Thomas Kelly, 1769-  
1855 Taken from the Gadsby  
Hymnal #932. CCLI #708363

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

*During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed  
for Children's Worship. See p.14 for more information.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 14:25-33*

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

## Sermon

*A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at [wepc.org/sermons](http://wepc.org/sermons).*

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." "And I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

*Luke 22:7-8, 14-20, 29-30*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

**Lord God Almighty, Your understanding is unsearchable and infinite, Your arm cannot be stayed. Holy is your wisdom, power, mercy, ways, works. How can I stand before You with my numberless offenses? I have often loved darkness, observed lying vanities, forsaken Your given mercies, trampled underfoot Your beloved Son, mocked Your providences, flattered You with my lips, broken Your covenant. It is only in light of Your compassion that I am not consumed. At the Cross may I contemplate the evil of sin, and abhor it. May I look on Him whom I pierced, as One slain for me, and by me. May I never despise His death by fearing its efficacy for my salvation. And whatever cross I am required to bear, let me see Jesus suffering mine.**

*Silent Confession of Sin*

*adapted from The Valley of Vision, "God and Myself"*

#### **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

When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God...For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

*Hebrews 10:12,14*



# 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

## JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee;  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my All shall be.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too;  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like man, untrue;  
And while Thou shalt smile up on me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me; show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to Thy breast;  
Life with trials hard may press me, Heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.  
O, 'tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me;  
O, 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go then, earthly fame and treasure! Come disaster, scorn, and pain!  
You redeem our pain for pleasure; with Thy favor loss is gain.  
I have called Thee, "Abba, Father"; wan'dring hearts are stayed on Thee:  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care;  
Joy to find in ev'ry station, something still to do or bear;  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, what a Father's smile is thine,  
What a Savior died to win thee: child of heav'n shouldst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
Heav'n's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;  
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

## AMAZING LOVE

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;  
That I, the guilty one, may go free...

*Amazing love! O what sacrifice!  
The Son of God giv'n for me;  
My debt He pays and my death He dies  
That I might live, that I might live.*

And so, they watched Him die, despised, rejected;  
But, O the blood He shed flowed for me.

And now this love of Christ, shall flow like rivers;  
"Come wash your guilt away, live again!"

*"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." --Mark 8:34*

*Lyrics: Henry F. Lyte, 1824  
© 2001 Bill Moore Music  
CCLI #708363*

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

*--Romans 5:8*

*Graham Kendrick*

*© 1989 Make Way Music*

*(Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)*

*CCLI #708363*

## ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS I STAND

1. On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,  
And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land,  
Where my possessions lie.

2. All o'er those wide extended plains,  
Shines one eternal day;  
There God the Son forever reigns,  
And scatters night away.

*I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for promised land,  
I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for promised land.*

3. No chilling winds nor poisonous breath  
Can reach that healthful shore;  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,  
Are felt and feared no more.

4. When shall I reach that happy place,  
And be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face,  
And in His bosom rest?

*"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." -Revelation 21:4  
©1997 Christopher Miner Music; Text: Samuel Stennett (1787); 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. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Music was led by Trey Wickham, along with Audrey Snyder, Jill Wiebe-King, Pat Reynolds, Rick Hepner, and Jason Weippert.*