

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 15, 2019 | Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost: Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:7-14

Relent

Psalms 51:1-10

Have Mercy

I Timothy 1:12-17

I Am the Foremost

Luke 15:1-10

Who Repents

Reflection on Sunday, September 15

Monday

Amos 7:1-6

The LORD Relented

I Timothy 1:18-20

The Good Warfare

Tuesday

Jonah 3:1-10

Who knows? God may Turn and Relent

II Peter 3:8-13

That All Should Reach Repentance

Wednesday

Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6

Therefore I Repent

Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

You Will Deny Me

Daily

Psalms 73

My Strength & Portion Forever

Preparation for Sunday, September 22

Thursday

Exodus 23:1-9

You Shall Not Pervert the Justice

Romans 3:1-8

God is Just

Friday

Ezekiel 22:17-31

I Have Returned their Way Upon Their Heads

Romans 8:31-39

It is God Who Justifies

Saturday

Isaiah 5:8-23

Woe to Those Who Call Evil Good and Good Evil

Mark 12:41-44

Abundance & Poverty

Daily

Psalms 113

He Raises the Poor from the Dust

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Take these words from John Piper this morning to heart. Jesus is the seeking heart of God.....

“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents . . . ” Repentance is in the parable. But what we see at the table is Jesus receiving sinners and eating with them. Jesus is the seeking heart of God going out after sinners and winning our repentance. We must repent. But He has not left us alone in this. He has taken bold initiatives to reach us and change us. This message today and your being here is one of them. It is no accident. God is here in this word and is speaking. And His word is this: come to the table, repent. Open your eyes and see that the banquet of being with Jesus is worth the cost of following Jesus (Luke 14:16–24, 25–33).

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

Fourteenth 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.

WHO REPENTS

"Parables are told only because they are true, not because the actions of the characters in them can be recommended for imitation. Good Samaritans are regularly sued. Fathers who give parties for wayward sons are rightly rebuked, Employers who pay equal wages for unequal work have labor-relations problems. And any Shepherd who makes a practice of leaving ninety-nine sheep to chase after a lost one quickly goes out of the sheep-ranching business.

The parables are true only because they are like what God is like, not because they are models for us to copy. It is simply a fact that the one thing we dare not under any circumstances imitate is the only thing that can save us. The parables are, one and all, about the foolishness by which Grace raises the dead. They apply to no sensible process at all--only to the divine insanity that brings everything out of nothing."

Robert Capon

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Timothy 1:14-17

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.

The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,
of whom I am the foremost.**

But I received mercy for this reason,
that in me, as the foremost,
Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience
as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

**To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy holy holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy, Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity.

Holy holy holy, all the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy holy holy, though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy holy holy, Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy holy holy, Merciful and Mighty
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity.

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
of hosts; the whole earth is
full of his glory!" -Isaiah 6:3
Reginald Heber (1826);
Tune: Nicaea, John B. Dykes
(1861)
CCLI #708363*

Welcome

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

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Carter Gill (9 AM)
Joseph Kariuki

Samuel Adwell (10:30 AM)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30 am)

Samuel Micah Adwell
Hope Elizabeth Livingston
Luke William Goodrich

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 32:7-14

And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Psalm 51:1-10

To the choirmaster.

A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church: That we would despair of self-righteousness & depend on the grace of God alone as our life and salvation.
- Pray for the schools & educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate, and professional schools. For the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.
- For Church Planting in Metro Richmond: For Church Hill Presbyterian Church (2019).

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

HELP MY UNBELIEF

I know the Lord is nigh,
And would but cannot pray,
For Satan meets me when I try,
And frights my soul away.
And frights my soul away.

I would but can't repent,
Though I endeavor oft;
This stony heart can ne'er relent
Till Jesus makes it soft.
Till Jesus make it soft.

*Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.
Help my unbelief.
My help must come from Thee.*

I would but cannot love,
Though wooed by love divine;
No arguments have power to move
A soul as base as mine.
A soul so base as mine.

I would but cannot rest,
In God's most holy will;
I know what He appoints is best,
And murmur at it still.
I murmur at it still.

“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’”
-Mark 9:24
Text: John Newton (1725-1807)
Tune: Clint Wells (2005)
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 15:1-10

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

from Matthew 26:17-29

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have sinned and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.

Silent Confession of Sin

from the Book of Common Prayer

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts worship 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

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

First Communion

Carter Gill (9 AM)

Samuel Adwell (10:30 AM)

Carter & Samuel recently met with the Elders, who heard their testimonies of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Gill and Adwell families to receive communion first.

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

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

*We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood—upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid;
For the promised morning, Oh how long! O God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the faithful One;
And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

*"For a people shall dwell in
Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall
weep no more."
— Isaiah 30:19
Text/Tune: Sandra McCracken
and Joshua Moore
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JESUS WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

*Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.*

Jesus! What a Strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my Strength, my victory wins.

Jesus! What a Help in sorrow!
While the billows over me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my Comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus! What a Guide and Keeper!
While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night overtakes me,
He, my Pilot, hears my cry.

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

*"A friend of tax collectors and
sinners." -Luke 7:34
Text: John Wilbur Chapman
(1910); Tune: Hyfrydol, Rowland
Hugh Pritchard (1830)*

GOD WHO SAVES

There is life in the blood of the Lamb who was slain
There is power, there is power in His name
There is love pouring out of the wounds that were made
Pouring out, pouring over our shame.

*So praise the God who saves
Praise the God who bled
Praise the God who was nailed to a tree
And wore our sins upon His head*

There is truth in His body, raised that third day
There is joy in a stone rolled away
There is hope pouring out of the tomb where He lay
Pouring out, pouring over the grave.

There is life in the blood of the Lamb who was slain
There is power, there is power in His name
There is love pouring out of the wounds that were made
Pouring out, pouring over our shame.

*"But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." -Psalm 13:5
Text/Tune: Aaron Senseman; © 2001 Stuntman Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*"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 Elder Chris Newlin, along with Erin Bouknight, Mark Schairbaum, Buddy Miner, Matthew Mawyer, and Luke Smith.