

# WEPC LECTIONARY PROJECT

Thank you for joining us this past year for the Lectionary Project to mark 25 years of Christ's faithfulness at West End Presbyterian Church. We used the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship, and our personal and family devotion. We are grateful for the many ways the Lord used the Scripture we shared together this past year. God is good.

Looking for a new daily reading plan? Consider...

A variety of daily readings from the English Standard Version:  
[www.esv.org/resources/mobile-apps](http://www.esv.org/resources/mobile-apps)

Reading the Westminster Standards with Scripture proofs in a year:  
[reformedconfessions.com/about](http://reformedconfessions.com/about)

Working your way through Matthew Henry's classic Method For Prayer:  
[matthewhenry.org/daily-devotional-emails](http://matthewhenry.org/daily-devotional-emails)

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

I have chosen a dark (yet ultimately hope-filled) passage to preach this week. Stick with me this morning and I believe in the end this terrible story will fill you with hope.

One contrast that this passage gives us could be helpful for us to ponder in our particular political moment.

While we, in America, have no king, we do give an overabundance of executive authority to our presidents. We also give them a lot of deference and symbolically at least, we understand that honor is due them. Frankly, I think we make presidents more important than we should, and in fact, make them like little kings.

In today's story, we have a juxtaposition of 2 kings: Jesus and Herod.

Herod does what kings (and presidents) can do. They can order people to kill.

Jesus does what no king can do. He, by himself, kills death.

## **Jeremiah 31:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the Lord:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more."

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord:

"Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears,  
for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord,  
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

<sup>17</sup> There is hope for your future, declares the Lord,

and your children shall come back to their own country.

Warmly,

Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM  
Sunday School: 9 AM

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PCA | pcanet.org

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNION

### **The First Sunday after Christmas**

We are now celebrating the Season of Christmas, a time that helps us to remember Christ's birth and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His promised return when He will come to redeem His creation and exercise His authority.

### **RISE & FLEE**

This little Babe so few days old  
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;  
All hell doth at His presence quake,  
Though He Himself for cold do shake;  
For in this weak unarmèd wise  
The gates of hell He will surprise.

Robert Southwell

Matthew is telling us that if we are ever going to understand who Jesus is, we cannot simply make a beeline for Mary, Jesus's mother, and Joseph, the adoptive father. No, we have to go back—a long way back—into the Old Testament.

Derek Thomas

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18*

### **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.

Since the children share in flesh and blood,  
He Himself likewise partook of the same things,

**That through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,**

And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

**He had to be made like His brothers in every respect,**

So that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**Because He Himself has suffered when tempted,  
He is able to help those who are being tempted.**

## INVOCATION

# SONG OF ADORATION

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on  
whom his favor rests."  
-Luke 2:14*

Traditional French Carol,  
trans. 1862; Tune: GLORIA,  
French Carol (18th century)

# Welcome

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

# OLD TESTAMENT READING

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,  
the praises of the LORD,  
according to all that the LORD has granted us,  
and the great goodness to the house of Israel  
that He has granted them according to His compassion,  
according to the abundance of His steadfast love.  
For He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely."  
And He became their Savior.  
In all their affliction He was afflicted,  
and the angel of His presence saved them;  
in His love and in His pity He redeemed them;  
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

# MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 148*

Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise Him in the heights!**

Praise Him, all His angels;  
praise Him, all His hosts!

**Praise Him, sun and moon,  
praise Him, all you shining stars!**

Praise Him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

**Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
For He commanded and they were created.**

And He established them forever and ever;  
He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

**Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind fulfilling His word!**

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!**

Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for His name alone is exalted;  
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

He has raised up a horn for His people,  
praise for all His saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to Him.

**Praise the LORD!**

# OFFERING

*If you miss 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

## THIS IS THE CHRIST

Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing,  
To us this day a child is giv'n,  
To crown us with the joy of heav'n.

*This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself our Savior be,  
And from our sins will set us free.*

All hail, thou noble guest this morn,  
Whose love did not the sinner scorn;  
In my distress thou come'st to me,  
What thanks shall I return to thee?

Were earth a thousand times as fair,  
Beset with gold and jewels rare,  
She yet were far too poor to be  
A narrow cradle, Lord, for thee.

Praise God upon his heavenly throne,  
Who gave to us His only Son,  
For this His hosts on joyful wing  
A blessed New Year of mercy sing.

*“For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.” -Luke 1:49*

Words: Martin Luther  
Music: Sandra McCracken  
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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30 am)

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

## SCRIPTURE Reading

*Matthew 2:13-23*

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

## 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

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*from the Book of Common  
Prayer: 1 Timothy 3:9;  
1 Thessalonians 4:14-15;  
1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 10:16*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

**Forgive them all, O Lord;**

**Our sins of omission and our sins of commission;**

**The sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years;**

**The sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;**

**Our secret and our more open sins;**

**Our sins of ignorance and surprise,**

**And our more deliberate and presumptuous sin;**

**The sins we have done to please ourselves,**

**And the sins we have done to please others;**

**The sins we know and remember,**

**And the sins we have forgotten;**

**The sins we have striven to hide from others**

**And the sins by which we have made others offend You;**

**Forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for His sake,**

**Who died for our sins and rose for our justification,**

**And now stands at Thy right hand**

**To make intercession for us,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Silent Confession of Sin*

*John Wesley (1703-1791)*

#### **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

“Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!”

*John 1:29*



# 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

## HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!*

Christ by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!*

*"A great company of the heavenly host was praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.'" -Luke 2:13-14*

Charles Wesley (1739);  
Tune: FESTGESANG, Felix  
Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840)

## ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

*"Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven."  
-Matthew 6:10*

Traditional Scottish Folk Tune  
Words and Arrangement by  
Dustin Kensrue  
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1. Should nothing of our efforts stand,  
No legacy survive,  
Unless the Lord does raise the house  
In vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow's gain,  
Tell me, What is your life?  
A mist that vanishes at dawn,  
All glory be to Christ!

*All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
All glory be to Christ!*

2. His will be done, His kingdom come  
On earth as is above,  
Who is Himself our daily bread  
Praise Him, the Lord of love.  
Let living water satisfy  
The thirsty without price;  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
All glory be to Christ!

3. When on the day the great I Am  
The faithful and the true  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain  
Is making all things new.  
Behold our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast light,  
And we shall e'er his people be,  
All glory be to Christ!

## JOY TO THE WORLD

*"Shout for joy to the LORD,  
all the earth." -Psalm 98:4*

Isaac Watts (1719);  
Tune: ANTIOCH,  
George Frideric Handel (1742)

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

# 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 Becca Wethered, along with Robin Huff, Kevin Greene, Karl Kuder, Linda Pasquarell, and Harrison Weippert.*