



West End
presbyterian church

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.

April 7, 2019 | Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
A Way in the Sea

Psalms 126
Restore Our Fortunes, O LORD

Philippians 3:4b-14
Because Christ has Made Me His Own

John 12:1-8
Anointed for Burial

Reflection on Sunday, April 7

Monday

Exodus 40:1-15
Their Anointing Shall Admit Them

Hebrews 10:19-25
A Great Priest

Tuesday

Judges 9:7-15
Anointing the Bramble

I John 2:18-28
Anointed by the Holy One

Wednesday

Habakkuk 3:2-15
The Salvation of Your Anointed

Luke 18:31-34
They Understood None of These Things

Daily

Psalms 20
The LORD Saves His Anointed

Preparation for Sunday, April 14

Thursday

Isaiah 53:10-12
He Shall Bear Their Iniquities

Hebrews 2:1-9
He Bore the Sin of Many

Friday

Isaiah 54:9-10
Compassion on You

Hebrews 2:10-18
Made Like His Brothers in Every Respect

Saturday

Leviticus 23:1-8
Appointed Feasts

Luke 22:1-13
They Prepared the Passover

Daily

Psalms 31:9-16
I Have Become Like a Broken Vessel

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Memory of the Lord's past faithfulness is an essential component of faith. That God has been patient and good and merciful in the past should help us to call on him to continue that goodness in the times of trouble and weeping.

Along with memory, Scripture repeats over and over again that weeping lasts for a time but joy comes in the morning. We always live in anticipation of the restoration of what has been lost and the resurrection of the dead.

Good Friday and Easter Saturday are not eternal. The resurrected Jesus on Easter Sunday is eternal.

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
website: wepc.org

PCA | pcanet.org

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

Fifth Sunday in Lent

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a time to ask God to help us confront our own mortality and sinfulness, to ask Him to show us our need for grace, to grow in repentance, and to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent—the period between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter—lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

RESTORE

“Sometimes a flood of God’s Spirit comes down powerfully and suddenly, like the streams from distant mountain rainstorms, and the community is restored dramatically. But there is also a slower path to renewal. Those who ‘sow with tears’ are those who have painstakingly prayed and wept over their own sins and also over people...the desert will become a garden.”

–Tim Keller

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 43:18-21

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.

Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.

**Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

For I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,

**The people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM

1. God is love, let heaven adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him
And exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is love, eternal love,
God is love, eternal love.

2. God is love; and love enfolds us,
All the world in one embrace;
With unfailing grasp God holds us,
Every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod,
Then we find that self same aching
Deep within the heart of God,
Deep within the heart of God.

3. God is love; and though with blindness
Sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving kindness
Guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain:
God is love, so love forever
O'er the universe shall reign,
O'er the universe shall reign.

Text: Timothy Rees (1874-1939)
Music: Alex Mejias
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*"God is love, and whoever
abides in love abides in God,
and God abides in him."
– 1 John 4:16*

Welcome

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

GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Philippians 3:8-12

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him;

Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death;

That by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church: For knowledge of Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection.
- For Metropolitan Richmond: Pray for spiritual renewal and revival. For the Holy Spirit's power for followers of Jesus to bring the Gospel to bear in every facet of life and culture in our city and communities.
- For WEPC Mission Partners: At Ease (Fort Lee), The Gideons International, Needles Eye, The Richmond Christian Study Center, and Scholé House (VCU).

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

BE THOU MY VISION

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art---
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou my Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

*“Whatever was gain to me
I now consider loss for the
sake of Christ.”
– Philippians 3:7*

*Text: 8th century Irish hymn,
trans. by Mary Byrne (1905)
Tune: SLANE (trad. Irish
melody)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 AM)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126
A Song of Ascents

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- ³ The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.
- ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
- ⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- ⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

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

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."

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

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."

PRAYER OF 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your steadfast love and atoning sacrifice, You took our place and proved Yourself to be the Friend of sinners. You were punished that we might be pardoned, and broken that we would be made whole. In Your resurrection You demonstrated Your power over death, and secured our future—triumphant, redeemed, and blessed eternally.

While we await Your return, we confess that we have been faithless and anxious in heart. In our restlessness we have sought restoration for our souls in a salvation of our own making. Apart from You, we find ourselves dangerously proud, alone and worn. Forgive us, Savior!

Renew our faith and restore our hope. You have done great things for us, O LORD. Amen.

Silent Confession

LORD, Have Mercy

“God, have mercy on me, a sinner” – Luke 18:13

Ancient Greek hymn, 4th c.
Tune: Kevin W. Greene (2019)

Oh Lord have mer - - - cy.

Oh Christ have mer - - - cy.

Oh Lord have mer - - - cy.

U - - pon us.

U - pon us.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first three staves are vocal lines with lyrics underneath. The fourth and fifth staves are instrumental lines, likely for guitar or piano, with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Oh Lord have mer - - - cy.', 'Oh Christ have mer - - - cy.', 'Oh Lord have mer - - - cy.', 'U - - pon us.', and 'U - - pon us.' The music features a mix of quarter notes, half notes, and dotted notes, with some notes tied across bar lines.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS US BY HIS GRACE

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME (PSALM 51)

1. God, be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

5. Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love..." – Psalm 51:1

Text: Scottish Psalter (1912) Tune: Christopher Miner
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WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

*“For a people shall dwell
in Zion, in Jerusalem; you
shall weep no more.”
– Isaiah 30:19*

*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.*

Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore
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1. 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.
2. In the dark of night, before the dawn—
My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength!
3. Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed;
You are the Faithful One.
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

*“The steadfast love of the LORD
never ceases... great is your faith-
fulness.” – Lamentations 3:22-23*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)
Tune: FAITHFULNESS (Runyan)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

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 a word 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.

Children's Ministry Director Heather Jarvis gave the Children's Message.

Music was led by Trey Wickham, along with Jill Wiebe-King, Randall Ingram, Katie Jensen, Jamison Taggart, and Jason Weippert.