



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.

May 26, 2019 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

The Lord Opened Her Heart

Psalm 67

Let the Nations be Glad

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

The Lord God Will Be Their Light

John 14:23-29

The Helper

Reflection on Sunday, May 26

Monday

I Chronicles 12:16-22

The Spirit Clothed Amasai

Revelation 21:5-14

The Spirit Carried John

Tuesday

II Chronicles 15:1-15

The Spirit Came Upon Azariah

Revelation 21:15-22

The Spirit Showed John

Wednesday

II Chronicles 34:20-33

Huldah Speaks by the Spirit

Luke 2:25-38

Simeon & Anna Speak by the Spirit

Daily

Psalm 93

The LORD Reigns

Preparation for Sunday, June 2

Thursday (Ascension of the Lord)

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus, Who Was Taken Up

Psalm 47

God Has Gone Up With a Shout

Friday

Exodus 33:12-17

You Have Found Favor In My Sight

Revelation 22:6-9

Behold, I Am Coming Soon

Saturday

Exodus 33:18-23

Please Show Me Your Glory

John 1:14-18

We Have Seen His Glory

Daily

Psalm 97

All the Peoples See His Glory

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

You and I need help. The passage from John this morning reminds us that God gave us some help. And this is better help than anyone could ask for — a true Helper.

This week I heard a new song from the band Judah and the Lion that speaks to our universal cry for help, and our immediate reaction to resist any offered help. Here are the slightly modified lyrics:

*It's been a rough last couple of months
My aunt's gone and my parents divorced
But I'm ok / Please stop asking me / I'm ok...*

*Far from home and I think I'm depressed
Couple drinks get it out of my head
But I'm ok / Please stop asking me / I'm ok...*

*Well finally, some honesty
I'm not that great transparently
It's been a few years since I've felt ok
But I'm just like a pro not showing it on my face
I'm an ocean now, peaceful on the outside
But the deeper I go down, I'm discovering all the things
My brain has let sink below
Eventually coming up, up like a cyclone
So my first step to recovery, a couple deep breaths
And then hear me speak:*

*I'm not ok / Come get my pain / I'm not ok
Please stop asking me
I'm not ok / And maybe that's ok*

Warmly,
Joe

(Songwriters: Judah Lee Akers / Brian Victor Macdonald / Nathan Edward Zuercher.
"I'm ok," performed by Judah and the Lion from their 2019 album "Pep Talks")

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

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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

THE HELPER

Sixth Sunday of Easter

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord. The Church now lives as those who are "risen with Christ," living under His rule.

"Do not forget the Holy Spirit. Endeavor to obtain a clear view of His nature and character, His attributes, and His works. Behold the Spirit of the Lord, who first of all moved upon chaos and brought forth order, who now visits the chaos of your soul and creates the order of holiness. Behold Him as the Lord and giver of spiritual life, the Illuminator, the Instructor, the Comforter, and the Sanctifier. Behold Him as He descends upon the head of Jesus, and then as He rests upon you."

– Charles Spurgeon

CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 21:10, 22-26

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 angel carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

**And I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.**

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

**By its light will the nations walk,
and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,
and its gates will never be shut by day—
and there will be no night there.**

They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

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.*

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.

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

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Welcome

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

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS (10:30 AM)

Changiwok Deng
John Scott

New Testament Reading

Acts 16:9-15

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us;

**That Your way may be known on earth,
Your saving power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise You, O God;
let all the peoples praise You!

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for You judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise You, O God;
let all the peoples praise You!

**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.**

God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church: For power to love the One who loves us. For His Holy Spirit to bring peace and courage to His Church.
- For the churches and ministries of Metropolitan Richmond: For our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America; our Presbytery (James River); and for church planting in our region.
- For WEPC Mission Partners: Meredith & Sandy Elder (Serge Member Care); and Steve & Terri Zachry (At Ease at Fort Lee).

*Psalm 67. To the choirmaster:
with stringed instruments.
A Psalm. A Song.*

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).

SONGS OF PRAISE

LOOK TO JESUS

*“Take my yoke upon
you...and you will find
rest for your souls. For
my yoke is easy, and my
burden is light.”
– Matthew 11:28-29*

*Text: Joseph Swain (alt. Twit)
Tune: Kevin Twit
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1. Come ye souls by sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross behold the crown;
Look to Jesus! Look to Jesus! Look to Jesus!
Mercy flows through Him alone.

2. Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet;
Christ will give you strength to bear it,
While His grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory,
Where His ransomed captives meet.

3. Blessèd are the eyes that see Him,
Blessèd the ears that hear His voice;
Blessèd are the souls that trust Him,
And in Him alone rejoice;
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments
Then become their happy choice.

4. Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly opened eyes,
Like full springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest the Cross supplies;
All who taste it, all who taste it, all who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

Look to Jesus! Look to Jesus! Look to Jesus!
Mercy flows through Him alone.

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP (10:30 AM)

*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

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

John 14:23-29

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

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

from Mark 14:16-25

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."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Psalms 139:23-24;
51:9-12*

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.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!**

**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.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Silent Confession

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

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

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling!
Have you come to the end of yourself?
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling!

*O come to the altar,
The Father's arms are open wide!
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes—
Come today there's no reason to wait,
Jesus is calling!
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,
From the ashes a new life is born—
Jesus is calling!

*Oh what a Savior, isn't he wonderful?
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all!
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!*

"I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow." —Jeremiah 31:13
Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joyce © 2015 Elevation Worship Used by permission. CCLI: 708363

YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

1. 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.*

2. 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.

"Give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." – 1 Corinthians 15:58
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ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS

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

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!*

"Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest." – Hebrews 4:11

Text: Samuel Stennett (1787) Tune: Christopher Miner (1997) © Christopher Miner Music Used by permission. CCLI# 706383

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

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

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 Joe Brown preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Music was led by Worship Arts Directors Taylor Barnett and Tiffanie Chan along with Becca Wethered, Emily Baish, Karl Kuder, and Luke Smith.

The tapestry at the front of the sanctuary is the traditional liturgical color of white for this 50-day season of Easter. The tapestry will return to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled "Psalm 148," and was created by a team of WEPC artists.