



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.

August 11, 2019 | Eighth Sunday After Pentecost: Ordinary Time

Genesis 15:1-6

The LORD's Promise

Psalms 33:12-22

Our Soul Waits for the LORD

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

These All Died in Faith

Luke 12:32-40

Anticipate the Kingdom

Reflection on Sunday, August 11

Monday

II Chronicles 33:1-17

Manasseh's Repentance

Hebrews 11:1-7

The Faith of the People of Old

Tuesday

II Chronicles 34:22-33

Huldah Preaches God's Covenant

Hebrews 11:17-28

The Faith of Abraham's Descendants

Wednesday

Jeremiah 33:14-26

The LORD Remembers His Covenant

Luke 12:41-48

The Lord is Coming

Daily

Psalms 89:1-18

The LORD's Covenant Promise

Preparation for Sunday, August 18

Thursday

Joshua 7:1, 10-26

The Judgment of Achan

Hebrews 10:26-31

The Hands of the Living God

Friday

I Samuel 5:1-12

The Judgment of the Philistines

Hebrews 10:32-39

Do Not Throw Away Your Confidence

Saturday

I Samuel 6:1-16

The Ark Returned to Israel

Matthew 24:15-27

The Abomination of Desolation

Daily

Psalms 82

Arise, O God, Judge the Earth

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Faith is where the Christian life begins and ends. It is impossible to please God without it and it is the basis of our hope. In fact, when the Apostle Paul speaks of the three great Christian virtues, he speaks of faith, hope, and love.

While love is the greatest, we love because we believe God. We hope because we believe God. Our desires and our outlook are shaped by the promise and word of God. We take him at his word and that enables us to hope and love, particularly in difficult circumstances.

The righteous live by faith and they die by faith.

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

Ninth 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.

A BETTER COUNTRY

"Dante Alighieri did his best work after he accepted that he would probably always be in exile, and after he gave up on the possibility of getting justice in this life. He lifted his eyes from the earth of Florence and Tuscany and set them on the heavens, the abode of God."

– Rod Dreher

"There is no place for us among God's children, except we renounce the world, and that there will be for us no inheritance in heaven, except we become pilgrims on earth."

– John Calvin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 12:32-34

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.

Jesus said,

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy.

Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

1. Light of the World,
You stepped down into darkness;
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

2. King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above!
Humbly You came to the Earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

*"You have crowned him
with glory and honor."
– Hebrews 2:7*

Tim Hughes
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Welcome

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O LORD God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Psalm 33:12-22

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!

**The LORD looks down from heaven;
He sees all the children of man;**

From where He sits enthroned He looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,

**He who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.**

The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

**The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.**

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love,

**That He may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.**

Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.

**For our heart is glad in Him,
because we trust in His holy name.**

Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in You.

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church: For faith to believe the LORD and wisdom to hope in Him.
- For the workplaces and businesses of Metro Richmond: For economic development in depressed portions of the city, for the establishment of businesses that will create new employment opportunities.
- For Church Planting in Metro Richmond: for WEPC daughter churches Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Hanover County (2005) & Spring Run Presbyterian Church, Midlothian (2006).

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

STEADFAST

1. I will build my house whether storm or drought
On the rock that does not move.
I will set my hope in your love, O Lord,
And your faithfulness will prove
You are steadfast, steadfast.

2. By the word you spoke all the starry host
Are called out by name each night.
In your watchful care I will rest secure,
As you lead us with your light.
You are steadfast, steadfast.
You are steadfast, steadfast.

3. I will not trust in the strength of kings,
On your promise I will stand.
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,
Hallelujah to the Lamb!
You are steadfast, steadfast.
You are steadfast, steadfast.
You are steadfast, steadfast.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. – Psalm 136:1

Sandra McCracken,
Leslie Jordan, & Josh Silverberg
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from Henri Nouwen)
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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. See p.14 for more information.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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

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.

*1 Timothy 3:9; 1
Corinthians 5:7-8,
10:16-17, 15:3-4;
from the Book of
Common Prayer*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, You are faithful in all Your ways, not one word of all Your promises has failed. You are exceedingly jealous for Your Church, but we have not longed for You. We have cherished secret sins, and sought comfort in the lesser country. We have doubted and disdained Your sovereign choice, and squandered our inheritance. We have grown suspicious of You, and wondered if You were ashamed to be called our God. Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

Silent 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.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

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

ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME

1. All the way my Savior leads me,
Who have I to ask beside?
How could I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?

2. All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living Bread.

*You lead me and keep me from falling,
You carry me close to Your heart,
And surely Your goodness and mercy
will follow me.*

3. All the way my Savior leads me,
O, the fullness of His love!
O, the sureness of His promise
In the triumph of His blood.

4. And when my spirit clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.

"He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." – Psalm 23:3

Text: Fanny J. Crosby (1875) Tune: Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin © 2008 sixsteps Music Used by permission. CCLI #: 708363

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS



1 Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and harv-est sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear

sha-dow of tur-ning with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-
 stars in their cour-ses a-bove; join with all na-ture in
 pre-sence to cheer and to guide, strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou for-e-ver wilt be.
 ma-ni-fold wit-ness to Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row— bles-sings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Mor-ning by

mor-ning new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed Thy

hand hath pro-vided. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... great is your faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:22-23
 Text: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923) Tune: FAITHFULNESS (Runyan)

ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS

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

Text: Samuel Stennett (1787)
Tune: Christopher Miner (1997)
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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!*

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 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 Joe Brown led worship. Music was led by WEPC Elder Chris Newlin, along with Erin Bouknight, Mark Schairbaum, Buddy Miner, and Jamison Taggart.