



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 18, 2019 | Eighth Sunday After Pentecost: Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Is Not My Word Like Fire?

Psalms 82

Arise, O God, Judge the Earth

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Look to Jesus

Luke 12:49-56

I Came to Cast Fire

Reflection on Sunday, August 18

Monday

Jeremiah 23:30-40

False Prophets

I John 4:1-6

False Prophets

Tuesday

Jeremiah 25:15-29

The Cup of God's Wrath

Acts 7:44-53

Our Ancestors Persecuted

Wednesday

Jeremiah 25:30-38

He Will Roar Mightily Against His Fold

Luke 19:45-48

He Began to Drive Out

Daily

Psalms 32

Whose Sin is Covered

Preparation for Sunday, August 25

Thursday

Numbers 15:32-41

Commandments

Hebrews 12:3-17

The Lord's Discipline

Friday

II Chronicles 8:12-15

Solomon Honors the Sabbath

Acts 17:1-9

Paul Reasons on the Sabbath

Saturday

Nehemiah 13:15-22

Nehemiah Enforces the Sabbath

Luke 6:1-5

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

Daily

Psalms 103:1-8

Bless His Holy Name

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews wants us to consider Jesus, and one of the ways he wants us to do that is by remembering the "cloud of witnesses" that has pointed to Jesus for millennia.

Many of these witnesses suffered greatly for their faith and some were martyred. Some experienced miracles and some experienced a long, slow, and faith-filled life.

However, all were sinners saved by the gracious work of Jesus Christ. They were not idols or celebrities but people, flawed and broken, that God used and even now is still using.

You and I are a mixed bag of beauty and sin. So were they. And yet, they point us to the One who is beauty and eradicates sin.

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

Tenth 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.

LOOK TO JESUS

"God does not need your strength: He has more than enough power of His own. He asks your weakness: He has none of that himself, and He is longing, therefore, to take your weakness, and use it as the instrument in His own mighty hand. Will you not yield your weakness to Him, and receive His strength?"

– Charles Spurgeon

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah 23:23-24,29

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.

Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD,
and not a God far away?

**Can a man hide himself in secret places
so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD.**

Do I not fill heaven and earth?
declares the LORD.

**Is not My word like fire, declares the LORD,
and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice,
All creation rises to rejoice:

*Behold our God, seated on His throne,
Come let us adore Him!
Behold our King! Nothing can compare,
Come let us adore Him!*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God Eternal humbled to the grave;
Jesus, Savior risen now to reign!

"Behold your God!" – Isaiah 40:9

Meghan Baird, Jonathan Baird, Stephen Altrogge, Ryan Baird © 2011 Sovereign Grace Worship
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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.

PRESENTATION OF New Member (10:30 AM)

Samuel Adwell

*Pastor Kevin Greene
administered this
morning's membership
vows and baptisms.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30 AM)

Samuel Adwell
Noah Lawrence Cochrane

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Luke 12:49-56

"I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 82.
A Psalm of Asaph.*

God has taken His place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods He holds judgment:

**“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?”**

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

**Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”**

They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**I said, “You are gods,
sons of the Most High, all of you;**

nevertheless, like men you shall die,
and fall like any prince.”

**Arise, O God, judge the earth;
for You shall inherit all the nations!**

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church: For grace to submit to the Lord, wisdom to hate the injustice God hates, and power to love the weak and needy He loves.
- For the workplaces and businesses of Metro Richmond: For financial institutions, constructive investment policies, and effective development efforts to benefit the entire community.
- For Church Planting in Metro Richmond: Sudan Christian Fellowship (English/Arabic), Iglesia Hispana (Spanish), Ray of Hope (Nepalese), and Brazilian Church (Portuguese) hosted each week at WEPC.

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

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

1. Jesus, keep me near the Cross
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*In the Cross, in the Cross
Be my glory ever
'Til my ransomed soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

2. Near the Cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed His beams around me.

3. Near the Cross, O Lamb of God
Bring its scenes before me
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me.

4. Near the Cross, I'll watch and wait
Hoping, trusting ever
'Til I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river.

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
– Galatians 6:14*

Text: Fanny Crosby (1869)
Tune: William Doane (1869)

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.15 for more information.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

^{11:29} By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

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."

from Mark 14:16-25

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father of glory, our hearts cannot be hidden from Your sight. Our blind self-pity, self-serving and self-justifying are laid bare before Your eyes. Have mercy upon us, most merciful God. Grant us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ, so that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened. Help us to know the hope to which Jesus called us, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Look to Jesus the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

First Communion (10:30 AM)

Samuel Adwell

Samuel recently met with the Elders, who heard his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Adwell family 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

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small. Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them through his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" – Galatians 6:14
 Text: Isaac Watts (1707) Tune: HAMBURG (Mason, 1824)

TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, and to take Him at His word;
2. O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust His clean-sing blood;
3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease;
4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, pre - cious Je - sus, Sa - vior, friend;

just to rest up - on His pro - mise, and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
and in sim - ple faith to plunge me neath the heal - ing, clean-sing flood!
just from Je - sus sim - ply ta - king life and rest, and joy and peace.
and I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

"And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." – Galatians 2:20
Text: Louisa M. R. Stead (1882) Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick (1882)

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Allelu!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might,
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their One True Light.
Alleluia, Allelu!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the Victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Allelu!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.
Alleluia, Allelu!

But, lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Allelu!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Allelu-ia!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." Hebrews 12:1

Text: William W. Hou (1864)
Tune: Christopher Miner
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DOXOLOGY

*"Let everything that has
breath praise the LORD."
– Psalm 150:6*

Text: Thomas Ken (1709)

*Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH
(Bourgeois, 1551)*

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures

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.

here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise

Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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. WEPC Elder Rick McWhorter led worship. Music was led by Pastor Kevin Greene, along with Sonya Smith, Rick McMahon, Kim Forquer, Taylor Barnett, Suzie Bird, Donald Smith, and Gordon Collier.