

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

To overcome our enemies, it seems to me that we need one another and in particular, we need one another's encouragement.

Life is often hard and the life of following Jesus is hard. Having others to come alongside of me to encourage me with truth is priceless.

How do I know that encouragement is so key?

Because, the opposite of encouragement- discouragement- is one of the most powerful weapons used by our Enemy against the people of God.

All of us have a gift to give one another and that gift is the encouragement of the truth of Jesus.

Warmly,

Steve

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNION

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations.

Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and "God with us," and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

DISCOURAGED, AFRAID, FRUSTRATED

"Christ alone makes all other [false allies] suddenly vanish. There is nothing that Satan so much endeavors to accomplish as to bring on mists with the view of obscuring Christ, because he knows, that by this means the way is opened up for every kind of falsehood. This, therefore, is the only means of retaining, as well as restoring pure doctrine: to place Christ before the view such as He is with all His blessings, that His excellence may be truly perceived."

John Calvin

"Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness."

I Corinthians 11:14-15

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 86:9-12

All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.

I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

BE THOU MY VISION

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.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, be first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

*"Jesus Christ is all!"
– Colossians 3:7*

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

Welcome

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 7:15-23

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Psalm 57

The Reformed tradition has long emphasized the reading, singing and praying Psalms in worship. During WEPC's sermon series on Ezra & Nehemiah, corporate prayer will include Psalms associated with the return, restoration, and renewal of God's people returning from exile.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge;

In the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me.

He will send from heaven and save me; He will put to shame him who tramples on me.

God will send out His steadfast love and His faithfulness!

My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!

They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down.

They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!

I will sing and make melody! Awake, my glory!

Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!

PRAYER FOR RESTORATION & RENEWAL

Pray for peace of conscience, a holy confidence and serenity of mind arising from knowing that we are justified before God and His Spirit is at work in us.

Our "Prayer for Restoration and Renewal" comes each week from Matthew Henry's Method for Prayer, (www.matthewhenry.org).

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

WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich"
- 2 Corinthians 8:9*

Dawn Rodgers, Eric Wyse.
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 am)

Pastor Joe Brown

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezra 4:1-5

¹ Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel, ² they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here." ³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us." ⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build ⁵ and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

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

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us: restore those who repent, according to Your promises declared to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, merciful Father, for His sake, That we may live godly, righteous, and obedient lives, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

*from The Book of
Common Prayer*

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Luke 24:44,46-47

Jesus said...“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

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

COME, ALL YE PINING, HUNGRY POOR

1. Lord, we adore Thy boundless
grace,
The heights and depths unknown,
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace,
In Thy beloved Son.

2. The Saviour's bounty taste;
Behold a never-failing store
For every willing guest.

3. O wondrous gifts of love divine,
Dear Source of every good;
Jesus, in Thee glories shine!
How rich Thy flowing blood!...

4. Here shall your numerous wants
receive
A free, a full supply;
He has unmeasured bliss to give,
And joys that never die...

*"For in him all the fullness of
God was pleased to dwell,"
-Colossians 1:19*

Words by Anne Steele (1716-
1778), from Gadsby Hymnal
#1093 Music by Brian T.
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BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

*My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.*

When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.

*Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me.
to look on Him and pardon me.*

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!

*One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God
with Christ, my Savior and my God.*

*"These are they which follow
the Lamb... they are without
fault before the throne."
-Revelation 14:4-6*

Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-
1923) ©1997 PDI Worship
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IT IS WELL

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."
- 1 Corinthians 15:52

Horatio G. Spafford (1873);

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE,

Philip Bliss (1876);

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When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul...

*It is well (it is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul...

My sin, oh the bliss
of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!...

And Lord haste the day
when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul...

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

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 WEPC Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered, Robin Huff, Hannah Weippert, Tim Drummond, Linda Pasquarell, Karl Kuder, and Luke Smith.

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.