

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

The work that God is doing in the world and in you and me has been, is, and will be opposed by our enemies until Jesus brings the curtain down on history.

No amount of faithful action on our part will end the opposition.

If you experience no struggle in life, or you sense no opposition to the work of God in you or around you, perhaps you are not in Christ. Our enemy has no need to oppose that which is no threat.

The life of following Jesus is hard. Hard is not necessarily bad, just hard.

Warmly,

Steve

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNION

The Fifth 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.

OPPOSITION

“Even as we slog through the trials, persecutions, irritations, temptations, distractions, apathy, and just plain weariness of this world, the gospel points us to heaven where our King Jesus — the Lamb of God who was crucified in our place and raised gloriously from the dead — now sits interceding for us. Not only so, but it calls us forward to that final day when heaven will be filled with the roaring noise of millions upon millions of forgiven voices hailing him as crucified Savior and risen King.”

Greg Gilbert

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. Take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 12:2-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

The Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Let us consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

COMETHOU FOUNT

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Here by Thy great help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Oh take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

*"Then Samuel took a stone
and set it up...He named it
Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far
has the LORD helped us.'"
-1 Samuel 7:12*

Robert Robinson (1758)
Tune: NETTLETON, Wyeth's
Repository of Sacred Music
(1843)

Welcome

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

New Testament Reading

Revelation 12:7-11

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 109:1-4, 21-22,
26-27, 30-31
To the choirmaster.
A Psalm of David.*

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 not silent, O God of my praise!

For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues.

They encircle me with words of hate, and attack me without cause.

In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer.

But You, O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for Your name's sake; because Your steadfast love is good, deliver me!

For I am poor and needy, and my heart is stricken within me.

Help me, O LORD my God! Save me according to Your steadfast love!

Let them know that this is Your hand; You, O LORD, have done it!

With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD; I will praise Him in the midst of the throng.

For He stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

PRAYER FOR RESTORATION & RENEWAL

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

Pray for the grace of God operating in our lives and church.

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

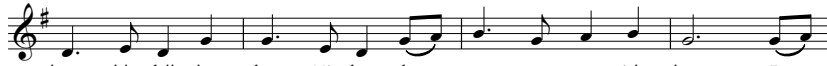
APPROACH MY SOUL THE MERCY SEAT



1. Ap - proach my soul the Mer - cy seat, where Je - sus an - swers prayer; There
2. Thy prom - ise is my on - ly plea with this I ven - ture nigh; Thou
3. Bowed down be - neath a load of sin, by Sat - an sore - ly pressed; By
4. Be - Thou my Shield and Hi - ding Place! That, shel tered near Thy side, I

"Since we have a great high priest...let us approach the throne of grace with confidence."
-Hebrews 4:14, 16

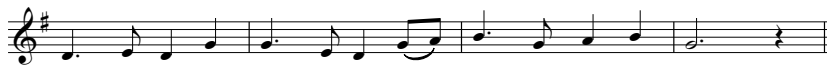
John Newton (1779)
Tune: CLEANSING
FOUNTAIN (19th century
American)



hum - bly fall be - fore His feet, for none can per - ish there. For
 call - est bur - dened souls to Thee, And such O Lord, am I. And
 wars with - out, and fears with - in I come to Thee for rest. I
 may my fierce ac - cu - ser face, and tell him, "Thou hast died!" And



none can per - ish there; For none can per - ish there; There
 such O Lord, am I And such, O Lord, am I; Thou
 come to Thee for rest; I come to Thee for rest; 'Mid
 tell him, "Thou hast died!" And tell him, "Thou hast died!" I



hum - bly fall be - fore His feet, for none can per - ish there.
 call - est bur - dened souls to Thee, and such, O Lord, am I.
 wars with out, and fears with - in I come to Thee for rest.
 may my fierce ac - cu - ser face, and tell him, "Thou hast died!"

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30 am)

During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed for Children's Worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezra 4:6-13

⁶ And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. ⁷ In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia. The letter was written in Aramaic and translated. ⁸ Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows: ⁹ Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the governors, the officials, the Persians, the men of Erech, the Babylonians, the men of Susa, that is, the Elamites, ¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River. ¹¹ (This is a copy of the letter that they sent.) “To Artaxerxes the king: Your servants, the men of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now ¹² be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. ¹³ Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be impaired.

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

Holy God, we are guilty of rejecting Your commands, of doubting Your promises, of proud self-reliance, of neglect to rest in You. Daily we fail to love You and our neighbor as we ought. We praise You for providing the Savior in Jesus, who takes our sin and gives us His righteousness! Lord, continue the work of salvation in us: conquer our weakness with Your strength, blot out our self-centeredness with Your glory. Meet us in our suffering and disappointments, refine us as You see fit. Keep us from returning to sin's bondage, brighten our hearts with Your grace. Redirect our desires so that we delight deeply in You. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts worship 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

At just the right time,
when we were still powerless,
Christ died for the ungodly.

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6,8

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

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun.

*"For by grace you have
been saved through faith."
-Ephesians 2:8*

John Newton (1779);
Tune: NEW BRITAIN, Virginia
Harmony (1831)

MINDFUL

*"What is man that You are
mindful of him? You crowned
him with glory and honor."
-Psalm 8:4-5*

Adapted from Don and Lori
Chaffer, ©1999 Hey Ruth Music
(BMI), Used by Permission.
CCLI #708363

Since I am so weak,
Since I am in need,
Since I have no healing within me,

*O, my God, be mindful of me,
You are my Help and my Redeemer;
O, my God, be mindful of me,
You are my Help and my Redeemer.*


Unto You, O Lord,
I lift up my soul,
In Your loving-kindness I believe.

*Surely those who wait on You
Will never be ashamed
All of those who call on You
Will know the faithfulness of Your name.*


WE ARE NOT OVERCOME (LAMENTATIONS 3)

*"Because of the LORD's
great love we are
not consumed"
-Lamentations 3:22*

Robert Heiskell & Isaac
Wardell, © 2013 Bifrost Arts,
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CCLI #708363



Flesh will fail ___ and bones will break; thieves will steal, ___ the earth will
Put no trust ___ in the earth, in the sod ___ you stand up-
Have no fear ___ for your life, turn your cheek, ___ turn your



shake. Night will fall, ___ the light will fade; ___ The Lord will give ___ and take a-
on. Flow-ers fade ___ in - to dust; ___ The Lord will make ___ a place for
cheek. Bear the yoke ___ of love and death; ___ The Lord will give ___ all life and

Chorus



way: Be-cause of His great Love, we are not o-ver- come!
us:
breath.



— Be-cause of His great Love, we are not o-ver- come!

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. Changjwok Deng led worship. Music was led by Pastor Kevin Greene, Sonya Smith, Lori Bowman, Rick McMahon, Donald Smith, Becca Wethered, Kim Forquer and Jason Weippert

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.