

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

We will read today that God's eye is upon His people. This means not only that God ordains whatsoever comes to pass, but just as importantly, He prevents things from happening as well.

We are reminded often to thank God for the things He has done. It is a good idea to thank Him for the things He has kept from happening to us as well, both those things we are aware of and those of which we had no idea.

His eye is on you even when your eye is somewhere else.

Warmly,

Steve

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

The Seventh 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.

THE EYE OF THEIR GOD

“It is very well to imitate these elders in giving an answer in meekness and fear, but not terrified by our adversaries. If God has clearly set us to do work for Him, let us go through with it in spite of all human opposition. Storms are the methods by which He reveals our weakness and His all-sufficiency.”

F.B. Meyer

“We want suffering to be like pregnancy—we have a season, and it’s over, and there is a tidy moral to the story. I’ve come to sense that isn’t what faith is at all. What if there is never an end? What if the story never improves and the tests continue to break our hearts? Is God still good?”

Kara Tippetts

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

I Corinthians 15:58

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 10:19-23

Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God:

Let us draw near to God

with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,

**having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience
and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

JESUS I AM RESTING

1. Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, and Thy beauty fills my soul,
For, by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole...

*Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.*

2. Oh, how great Thy loving kindness, vaster, broader than the sea!
Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness, lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise, and have made it mine...

3. Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its every need,
Compasseth me round with blessings: Thine is love indeed...

4. Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, Earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory, Sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting, Fill me with Thy grace...

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
-Matthew 11:28*

Text: Jean S. Pigott (1876)
Tune: David B. Hampton
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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.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalms 33:8, 10-12, 18,
20-22*

The Reformed tradition has long emphasized the reading, singing and praying of 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.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

**The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
He frustrates the plans of the peoples.**

The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.

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

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

**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.**

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 grace to equip us for every good thought, word, and deed. That we may not only be kept from sin, but may eagerly follow Jesus Christ where He daily leads us.

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

GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME

1. God, be merciful to me,
On Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me, from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess,
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace
And provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgment just,
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil, born of sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Broken humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my Spirit right and true;
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions." -Psalm 51:1

Text: Psalter 1912; Tune: Christopher Miner ©1997 Christopher Miner Music; CCLI #708363

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 5:3-17

³At the same time Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and their associates came to them and spoke to them thus: “Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?” ⁴They also asked them this: “What are the names of the men who are building this building?” ⁵But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews, and they did not stop them until the report should reach Darius and then an answer be returned by letter concerning it. ⁶This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and his associates, the governors who were in the province Beyond the River, sent to Darius the king. ⁷They sent him a report, in which was written as follows: “To Darius the king, all peace. ⁸Be it known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built with huge stones, and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands. ⁹Then we asked those elders and spoke to them thus: ‘Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?’ ¹⁰We also asked them their names, for your information, that we might write down the names of their leaders. ¹¹And this was their reply to us: ‘We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. ¹²But because our fathers had angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia. ¹³However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be rebuilt. ¹⁴And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; ¹⁵and he said to him, “Take these vessels, go and put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its site.” ¹⁶Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and from that time until now it has been in building, and it is not yet finished.’ ¹⁷Therefore, if it seems good to the king, let search be made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by Cyrus the king for the rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem. And let the king send us his pleasure in this matter.”

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

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 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

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

from Micah 7:18-19

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

ROCK OF AGES (WHEN THE DAY SEEMS LONG)

1. Rock of Ages, when the day seems long,
From this labor and this heartache, I have come.
The skies will wear out but You remain the same,
Rock of Ages I praise Your name...

2. Rock of Ages, You have brought me near.
You have poured out Your life-blood,
Your love, Your tears.
To make this stone heart come alive again,
Rock of Ages, forgive my sin...

*Rock of Ages, Rock of Ages,
Bind Your children until the kingdom comes;
Rock of Ages, Your will be done.*

3. Rock of Ages, when in want or rest,
My desperate need for such a Savior, I confess.
Pull these idols out from my heart's embrace,
Rock of Ages, I need Your grace...

4. Rock of Ages, broken, scorned for me.
Who am I that You would die to make me free?
To give me glory, You took the death and pain,
Rock of Ages, my Offering...

5. Rock of Ages, "It is done!" You cried.
The curtain's torn and I see justice satisfied.
Now write Your mercy on my heart and hands,
Rock of Ages, in faith I stand...

6. Rock of Ages, my great hope secure.
Your promise holds just like an anchor to my soul.
Bind Your children with cords of love and grace,
Rock of Ages, we give You praise...

*"...knowing that you were
ransomed...with the precious
blood of Christ..."
-from Peter 1:18-19*

Text: Sandra McCracken
Tune: Kevin Twit © 2005
Same Old Dress Music
(Admin. by Music Services,
Inc.); 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...

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...

*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.*

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...

GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM

1. God is love, let heav'n adore Him. 5. God is love and though with blindness
God is love: let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before Him
And exalt Him with one voice. Sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving kindness
Guides us through our earthly strife.

2. God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation,
God is love, eternal love. 6. Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain.
God is love, so love forever
O'er the universe shall reign,
O'er the universe shall reign.

3. God is love and love enfolds us,
All the world in one embrace.
With unfailing grasp God holds us,
Every child of every race.

4. And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod,
Then we find that self same aching
Deep within the heart of God,
Deep within the heart of God.

*"Be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work
of the Lord, knowing that in the
Lord your labor is not in vain."*

-I Corinthians 15:58

Text & Tune: Wendell
Kimbrough, Paul Zach,
& Isaac Wardell

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*"The Lord reigns, let the
earth rejoice; let the many
coastlands be glad!"
-Psalm 97:1*

Text: Timothy Rees (1922)
Tune: Alex Mejias © 2008
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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 Kevin Shaffer, along with Sonya Smith, Jill Wiebe-King, Jamison Taggart, Mark Crutcher, and Gordon Collier.

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.