



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. 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.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, April 28, 2019

The Second Sunday of Easter

[Acts 5:27-32](#) *The God of our Fathers Raised Jesus*

[Psalm 150](#) *Everything That Has Breath*

[Revelation 1:4-8](#) *Firstborn of the Dead*

[John 20:19-31](#) *His Hands & His Side*

Monday, April 29

[Psalm 122](#) *Peace Be Within You*

[Esther 7:1-10](#) *Esther Prevails*

[Revelation 1:9-20](#) *Jesus Prevails*

Tuesday, April 30

[Psalm 122](#) *Peace Be Within You*

[Esther 8:1-17](#) *Golden Crown*

[Revelation 2:8-11](#) *The Crown of Life*

Wednesday, May 1

[Psalm 122](#) *Peace Be Within You*

[Esther 9:1-5, 18-23](#) *No One Could Stand Against Them*

[Luke 12:4-12](#) *Do Not Fear Those Who Kill the Body*

Thursday, May 2

[Psalm 30](#) *Mourning Into Dancing*

[Isaiah 5:11-17](#) *Man is Humbled*

[Revelation 3:14-22](#) *Wretched, Pitiable, Poor, Blind, and Naked*

Friday, May 3

[Psalm 30](#) *Mourning Into Dancing*

[Isaiah 6:1-4](#) *Holy, Holy, Holy*

[Revelation 4:1-11](#) *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Saturday, May 4

[Psalm 30](#) *Mourning Into Dancing*

[Genesis 18:1-8](#) *Hospitality to the LORD*

[Luke 14:12-14](#) *When You Give a Feast*

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of April 28, 2019

That You May Believe

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [John 20:19-31](#)

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- "On the evening of that day..." (19). Jesus just shows up. They don't know it but they need Him to show up and be particularly present. Uninvited. Disruptive. Startling.
- His first words are, "Peace be with you" (19)
- "Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord" (20). It took His words of reassurance-- not just His appearance-- to make them glad.
- Faith came in stages even as He appeared to them (21).
- Then He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them (22) and commissions them (23). Now empowered they will go forth with a message of forgiveness and be world changers.
- There is the interlude with Thomas, the late-comer (24-25).
- Eight days later, "inside again...the doors were locked..." (26).
- Has anything changed?
- The presence of Jesus by His Word and Spirit brings peace, slowly.
- The mission of Jesus is an authoritative mission declaring the forgiveness of sins.
- This takes time, because these same men who are afraid and behind locked doors, in the Acts passage we read are defiantly proclaiming the Gospel.

*To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org*

