



## 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](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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### **Sunday, May 26, 2019** *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

[Acts 16:9-15](#) *The Lord Opened Her Heart*

[Psalm 67](#) *Let the Nations be Glad*

[Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5](#) *The Lord God Will Be Their Light*

[John 14:23-29](#) *The Helper*

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### **Monday, May 27**

[Psalm 93](#) *The LORD Reigns*

[I Chronicles 12:16-22](#) *The Spirit Clothed Amasai*

[Revelation 21:5-14](#) *The Spirit Carried John*

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### **Tuesday, May 28**

[Psalm 93](#) *The LORD Reigns*

[II Chronicles 15:1-15](#) *The Spirit Came Upon Azariah*

[Revelation 21:15-22](#) *The Spirit Showed John*

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### **Wednesday, May 29**

[Psalm 93](#) *The LORD Reigns*

[II Chronicles 34:20-33](#) *Huldah Speaks by the Spirit*

[Luke 2:25-38](#) *Simeon & Anna Speak by the Spirit*

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### **Thursday, May 30** *The Ascension of the Lord*

[Acts 1:1-11](#) *Jesus, Who Was Taken Up*

[Psalm 47](#) *God Has Gone Up With a Shout*

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#) *Seated at His Right Hand*

[Luke 24:44-53](#) *He Was Carried Up Into Heaven*

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### **Friday, May 31**

[Psalm 97](#) *All the Peoples See His Glory*

[Exodus 33:12-17](#) *You Have Found Favor In My Sight*

[Revelation 22:6-9](#) *Behold, I Am Coming Soon*

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### **Saturday, June 1**

[Psalm 97](#) *All the Peoples See His Glory*

[Exodus 33:18-23](#) *Please Show Me Your Glory*

[John 1:14-18](#) *We Have Seen His Glory*

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## ***The Helper***

*This week, Joe Brown preached on [John 14:23-29](#)*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. <sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

- It's pretty dire in the upper room. Jesus teaches ([John 13:31-35](#)) about His betrayal, execution, death, and resurrection; His union between Jesus and the Father; The fact that He is leaving – and they can't follow; But they must instead love one another through obedience and service, and this will identify you as a follower of Christ.
- Jesus is speaking to a group of disciples who are barely holding it together, in the face of persecution, and don't understand what God is doing.
- Jesus, speaking truth in order to encourage, promises the disciples something: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." ([John 14:15-18](#))
- Jesus speaking to His despondent followers, sees them in their concern, and loves them to the end. The content of these final chapters of John (and the entire Bible) is that Christianity is about "abiding in Christ," our union with Him. "Being in Christ, and united to Him, is the fundamental constitution of a Christian." (*Thomas Goodwin*)
- Anyone who believes in Jesus is spiritually united with Him. Our salvation, growth in discipleship, and glorification are all because of our union with Christ. Spiritual disciplines (or means of grace) are ways that we, in responding to the Gospel, abide in Him. Without Christ, we are severed from God – dead sticks on the ground. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." ([John 15:4](#))
- The disciples were facing the real immediate threat of their faith being demolished. The help that the disciples needed was beyond kindness and lifting up those around them. Here and now, for them, kindness would evaporate.
- What is your need today? "32 years ago, our family was undergoing a crisis. I received a long, compassionate letter from a friend on the West Coast. Although the letter was wonderful, one line bothered me. My friend wrote, 'Your spirituality will get you through this.' When I read it, I recoiled. Whatever 'spirituality' meant, I was keenly aware that I didn't have any of it. In and of myself, I had nothing adequate for what was facing us at the time. I had only the faithfulness of Jesus Christ." (*Fleming Rutledge*)
- "Do you know, O saint, how much the Holy Spirit loves you? Can you measure the love of the Spirit? Do you know how great is the affection of his soul toward you? Go measure heaven with your span; go weigh the mountains in the scales; go take the ocean's water, and tell each drop; go count the sand upon the sea's wide shore; and when you have accomplished this, you can tell how much he loves you. He has loved you long, he has loved you well, he has loved you from the beginning, and he still shall love you forever; surely he is the person to comfort you, because he loves. Admit him, then, to your heart, O Christian, that he may comfort you in your distress." (*Charles Spurgeon*)
- The Holy Spirit comes alongside all who believe in Jesus in order to help us. And He helps us by pointing us to Jesus and by bringing Jesus to us. "The typical relationship between believers and the Holy Spirit in today's church is too often like that between the husband and wife in a bad marriage. They live under the same roof, and the husband makes constant use of his wife's services, but he fails to communicate with her, recognize her presence and celebrate his relationship with her." (*Richard Lovelace, Dynamics of Spiritual Life, 131*)
- The Holy Spirit / The Helper / The Paraclete is: Faithful, Unwearied, Wise, Safe, Active, Ever-Present
- Who helps you? "He comes to us from the heart of Christ, the bearer of Christ's life, the revealer and communicator of Christ Himself within us." (*Andrew Murray*)