



West End  
presbyterian church

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

I am fascinated by the service LinkedIn. Apparently, it is a site where business people can post their accomplishments, business experience, and resumé. I have perused many of our pages and we are an accomplished and competent church. In today's text the Apostle Paul presents his own resumé and his LinkedIn page looks very different from ours. Tim Keller says this about Paul's resumé:

“Remember Paul's situation in 2 Corinthians. He's facing false apostles and teachers who are saying he doesn't have the credentials to be a true apostle. Paul counters that he does have the credentials—but not the kind we would expect. He inverts all the categories. Instead of boasting about his theological knowledge, great success, or picture-perfect outward life, he boasts in insults, hardships, and being run out of town on a rail. This is how he contends that God is truly with him. He tells us to look at all the things God has done to bring him to his knees.”

The Gospel forces us to invert our categories of success. After all, our Savior did not look all that successful until God raised him from the dead.

Warmly,  
Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM  
Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

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## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### AS A FOOL

“What is scary about self-deception is that it can insulate us against Jesus Christ. When we are larded over with lies about our self-sufficiency and denial and pride—when these things defend us and rescue us, and pump up our self-image whenever it loses pressure, then the thought that we need Jesus our Savior becomes impertinent. It is unnecessary. It is entirely uninteresting.”

– *Cornelius Plantinga*

“Of ourselves we had no power to live, nor did He of Himself have the power to die. Accordingly, He effected a wonderful exchange with us: we gave Him the power to die, He will give us the power to live. In taking upon Himself the death that He found in us, He has most faithfully promised to give us life in Him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.”

– *Augustine*

### Ordinary Time

The Christian year, anchored in the main events of the New Testament, provides a pattern for understanding the Christian life. We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as “Ordinary Time.” Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in glory as King of all.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Be strong, and do not fear! Your God will come to save you.  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.  
Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Then will the wilderness rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice and shout for joy.

**And we, the ransomed of the Lord, will enter with singing.  
Everlasting joy will crown our heads.  
Open your eyes and see now the glory of the Lord,  
and the splendor of our God.**

*from Isaiah 35*

### The First Word

Because we believe God initiates with sinners, we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

# INVOCATION

## SONG OF ADORATION

### HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

Text/Tune: Stuart Townend  
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*"But God, being rich in  
mercy... made us alive  
together with Christ."  
– Ephesians 2:4-5*

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He would give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss,  
The Father turns His face away;  
As wounds which mar the chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,  
My guilt upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life,  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no powr's, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart,  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

# CONFESSION OF SIN

**Father in Heaven, forgive us for attempting to avoid You. We have fixed our eyes and our hope on ourselves instead of worshiping You. We indulge in our striving instead of trusting You. We indulge in our shame instead of resting in You. We indulge in grumbling and complaining instead of crying out to You. We have been given over to anxious isolation instead of following Jesus in His mission.**

**Yet Your compassions yearn over us, You hasten to our rescue. In the Cross of Christ, we see that Your Love endured our curse, Your Mercy bore our justice. Forgive us all of our sin and renew our hearts. Turn us back to You. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

## **Confession & Encouragement**

Often we find that our hearts are worshipping 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

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Hebrews 4:15-16*

# Welcome

## **We worship a welcoming God**

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

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

## MINISTRY OF PRAYER

### SONGS OF PRAISE

#### GLORIA PATRI

Text: 2<sup>nd</sup> century hymn Tune: Henry Greatorex (1851)

*“Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.” – Psalm 96:9*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it  
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be.  
World with - out end. A - men, a - men.

## ROCK OF AGES

Text: August Toplady (1776) Tune: Thomas Hastings (1830)

"That rock was Christ." – I Corinthians 10:4

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me  
2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful -  
3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply  
4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine

hide my - self in Thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,  
fill Thy law's de - mands; could my zeal no re - spite know,  
to the cross I cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress;  
eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds un - known,

from Thy woun - ded side which flowed, be of sin the  
could my tears for - e - ver flow, all for sin could  
help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the  
see Thee on Thy judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges,

dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
foun - tain fly; wash me, Sa - vior, or I die.  
cleft for me, let me hide my - self in Thee.

## SCRIPTURE Reading

*II Corinthians 11:16–33*

<sup>16</sup> I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. <sup>17</sup> What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. <sup>18</sup> Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. <sup>19</sup> For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! <sup>20</sup> For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. <sup>21</sup> To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

<sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup> but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

## Sermon

*A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at [www.wepc.org/sermons/guides](http://www.wepc.org/sermons/guides).*



## OFFERING

### SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

#### I NEED THEE EV'RY HOUR

I need Thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord.  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.  
I need Thee ev'ry hour, stay Thou nearby,  
Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.

*I need Thee, Oh I need Thee, Oh I need Thee every hour  
I need you Lord, O bless me now,  
My Savior, I come to Thee*

I need Thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain.  
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.  
I need Thee ev'ry hour, teach me Thy will  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill!

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most Holy One,  
O make me Thine indeed, Thou Blessed Son!

Text: Annie S. Hawks (1872)  
Tune: Kevin Twit  
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*"Let us then approach God's  
throne of grace with  
confidence." – Hebrews 4:16*

## JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME

Text: Edward Hopper Tune: Isaac Wardell & Joseph Pensak

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"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence." – Hebrews 4:16



Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me. O - ver life's tem - pest - uous sea;  
Though the sea be smooth and bright, spark - ling with the stars of night.  
As a mo - ther stills her child, Thou canst hush the oc - ean wild;  
When as last I near the shore, and the fear - ful break - ers roar;



un - known waves be - fore me roll, hi - ding rock and  
And my ship's path be a - blaze with the light of  
bois - terous waves o - bey Thy will when Thou say'st to  
twixt me and the peace - ful rest then when lean - ing



treach - erous shoal, chart and com - pass came from Thee! Sav - ior pi - lot me.  
peace - ful days; still, I know my need of Thee! Sav - ior pi - lot me.  
them, "Be still," Wond - l'rous Sove - reign of the sea, Sav - ior pi - lot me.  
on Thy breast, may I hear Thee say to me, "I will pi - lot thee."

## IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Text: Horatio G. Spafford (1873) Tune: Philip P. Bliss (1876)

"The peace of God... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:7

1. 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.*

2. My sin—O the joy 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!

3. O 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.

Text: Thomas Ken (1709)  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH  
(Bourgeois, 1551)

*“Let everything that has  
breath praise the LORD.”  
– Psalm 150:6*

**What does “doxology” mean?** It’s a word 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

## 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.

*After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary for prayer or to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.*

*Pastor Steve Shelby preached today’s sermon.*

*WEPC Elder & Director of Neighborhood Outreach Shangwok Deng led worship.*

*Pastor Kevin Greene led congregational singing along with Jill Wiebe-King, Rick McMahon, Taylor Barnett, Suzie Bird, Donald Smith, and Gordon Collier.*