



## Worship Bulletin

Dear Ones,

The Bible is clear: to marry outside of the faith is always a bad idea. Ezra discovers that prominent leaders in the community in Jerusalem have actually divorced their Jewish wives and married into influential families of those outside the faith.

Anytime we talk about marriage in a way that challenges the notion that my marriage is about my happiness and fulfillment, we run the risk of offending.

The Lord owns our marriage. Our wedding vows were made with Him as our witness. He gets a say even in that which I believe is most personal to me.

Thankfully, Jesus takes His marriage to us, the church, His bride, so seriously that he would die before 'divorcing' us.

He is always faithful even when we are not.

Warmly,  
Steve

### **God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him**

#### **The Second Sunday of Easter**

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord. The Church now lives as those who are "risen with Christ," living under His rule.

*The tapestry at the front of the WEPC sanctuary is the traditional liturgical color of white for this 50-day season of Easter. The tapestry will return to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled "Psalm 148," and was created by a team of WEPC artists.*

#### **Preparation for Worship**

*O LORD, You are Just*

"If we see that we are guilty, we will understand that for the Gospel to be effective it must clear us of our guilt; if we are alienated from God, we must be reconciled to Him; if we stand under His judicial wrath, that wrath must be propitiated; if the entire created order lies under the curse, the curse must be lifted and the created order transformed; if we are dead, we must be made alive; if the heart of our idolatry is abysmal self-focus and the de-godding of God, God must be restored in our vision and life to His rightful glory. In other words, we gain clarity regarding the Gospel when we discern...what it fixes."

D.A. Carson

#### **Call to Worship**

*Psalm 50:1-4, 23*

The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Our God comes; He does not keep silence;  
before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

**He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people.**

"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

#### **Invocation**

#### **Song of Adoration**

##### **REJOICE THE LORD IS KING**

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Your Lord and King adore.

Rejoice, give thanks and sing,

And triumph evermore,

And triumph evermore...

*Lift up your heart,*

*Lift up your voice.*

*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

His Kingdom cannot fail.

He rules o'er earth and Heav'n.

The keys of death and hell

Are to our Jesus giv'n,

Are to our Jesus giv'n...

Rejoice in glorious hope!

Our Lord, the King, will come;

And take His servants up

To their eternal home,

To their eternal home...

*"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." -Philippians 4:4*  
Charles Wesley (1746); Tune: Alex Mejias, ©2009 5PM Records.  
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#### **Welcome**

*We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are "visiting" our church for the first time, we encourage you to send us an email at [mail@wepc.org](mailto:mail@wepc.org) to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.*

## New Testament Reading

*II Corinthians 6:14-7:1*

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them  
and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.  
Therefore go out from their midst,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch no unclean thing;  
then I will welcome you,  
and I will be a father to you,  
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,  
says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

## Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

*Adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 100 (1647)*

What do we mean when we pray, “Our Father, who art in heaven”?

“Our Father, who art in heaven” <sup>1</sup> teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence as children to a father able and ready to help us; <sup>2</sup> and that we should pray with and for others. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt 6:9; <sup>2</sup> Rom 8:15, Luke 11:13; <sup>3</sup> Acts 12:5, I Tim 2:1-2

## The Ministry of Prayer

*Concluding with the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Offering

*If participation in the offering is part of your weekly worship, please either mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quiocasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229) or visit our website ([www.wepc.org/resources/giving](http://www.wepc.org/resources/giving)) for online giving options.*

## Song of Praise

### GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt.  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt...

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within.  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss.  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross...

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look, there is flowing a crimson tide,  
Whiter than snow you may be today...

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe.  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

*“Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” -Romans 5:20  
Julia H. Johnston (1911); Tune: MOODY, D.B. Towner (1910). Public Domain*

## God the Son Renews Us through His Word

### Scripture Reading

*Ezra 9:1-15*

After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. <sup>2</sup> For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost.” <sup>3</sup> As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled. <sup>4</sup> Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles, gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice. <sup>5</sup> And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garment and my cloak torn, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God, <sup>6</sup> saying:

“O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. <sup>7</sup> From the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt. And for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as it is today. <sup>8</sup> But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant and to give us a secure hold within his holy place, that our God may brighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our slavery. <sup>9</sup> For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set

up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> “And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, <sup>11</sup> which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.’

<sup>13</sup> And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, <sup>14</sup> shall we break your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practice these abominations? Would you not be angry with us until you consumed us, so that there should be no remnant, nor any to escape? <sup>15</sup> O LORD, the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this.”

## Sermon

### God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

#### Confession of Sin

**O Lord, we want to see You face to face, awed by Your majesty, greatness and glory, humbled and encouraged by Your great love. Yet there is a coldness in our hearts, a hardness toward You, an unwillingness to admit our sin and need for You. As soon as a good thing comes from Your hand we make an idol of it. As soon as we feel our lack, we craft the same. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within us, in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to You, and always clings to the Cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Silent Confession of Sin*

#### Words of Encouragement

*II Corinthians 5:21*

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Songs of Response to God's Grace

### WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

*We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
He has done great things, we will say together.  
We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire;  
He is the Lord our God.  
We are not consumed by the flood;  
Upheld, protected, gathered up...

In the dark of night, before the dawn,  
My soul, be not afraid.  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength...

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
You are the faithful one;  
And from the garden to the grave,  
Bind us together, bring shalom...

*"For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more."  
-Isaiah 30:19  
Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore, ©2015 Drink Your Tea &  
Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP). Used by permission. CCLI #708363*

### ALL THINGS NEW

Come, Lord, and tarry not.  
Bring the long looked for day.  
O why these years of waiting here,  
These ages of decay?

Come, for Thy saints still wait,  
Daily ascends their sigh.  
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come";  
Does Thou not hear the cry...

*O come and make all things new!  
Come and make all things new!  
O come and make all things new!  
Build up this ruined earth;  
Come and make all things new.*

Come, for creation groans,  
Impatient of Thy stay.  
Worn out with these long years of ill,  
These ages of delay.

Come, for love waxes cold.  
Its steps are faint and slow;  
Faith now is lost in unbelief,  
Hope's lamp burns dim and low...

*"Behold, I am making all things new." -Revelation 21:5  
Horatius Bonar (1779); Tune: Clint Wells, ©2010 Red Mountain Music.  
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## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty,  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice...

*How great is our God!  
Sing with me, how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!*

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands,  
Beginning and the End, beginning and the End.  
The Godhead three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

Name above all names, worthy of all praise!  
My heart will sing, how great is our God!

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent." -Psalm 104:1-2*  
Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves ©2004 sixsteps Music.  
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## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

*"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." -Psalm 150:6*  
Thomas Ken (1709); Tune: "Old 100<sup>th</sup>", Louis Bourgeois (1551)

## Benediction

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**Pastor Steve Shelby** preached today's sermon. Worship was led by **Pastor Kevin Greene**. **Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered**, **Elder Chris Newlin**, and **Robin Huff** led this morning's congregational singing. **Elder & Director of Youth Ministry, Tim Cornwell**, and **Elders Gordon Kuhfuss & Rick McWhorter** managed today's video live stream.