



Worship Bulletin

Dear Ones,

I have been struggling with judging people during this pandemic. I judge people who sneeze or cough inappropriately at the grocery store. I judge the teenagers I see around who are not practicing social distancing. I judge those I deem 'scaredy-cats' for being overly afraid. I judge our leaders and I judge people who are judging leaders.

Thankfully, there is one person I have not judged yet. Myself! Obviously, the "thankfully" was tongue-in-cheek.

It would be better, if I am going to judge, to start with myself and then run to my Advocate. He is the one who was judged for me.

Let's commit to allow judgment to begin with us before we launch our judgments on others.

Warmly,
Steve

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Third 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

Broken Faith & Hope in Spite

"Shecaniah's idea of hope [in Ezra 10:2] is not some vague optimism. Rather, it is a call to covenant with God, a definitive covenant in which there is fruit that shows repentance. It is a repentance that takes the hard road... Hope is often hard hope."

Dale Ralph Davis

"What can strip the seeming beauty
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless Worth.
'Tis that Look that melted Peter,
'Tis that Face that Stephen saw,
'Tis that Heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw."

Ora Rowan

"Polly's heart jumped in her body when she heard it. She felt sure that it was a call, and that anyone who heard that call would want to obey it and (what's more) would be able to obey it, however many worlds and ages lay between."

C.S. Lewis, The Magician's Nephew

Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Hear, O Israel:
The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

These commandments that I give you today
are to be on your hearts.

Invocation

Song of Adoration

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come."
-Revelation 4:8
Reginald Heber (1826); Tune: NICAEA, John Dykes (1861). Public Domain.*

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 to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.

New Testament Reading

Romans 2:1-4

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 101 (1647)

What do we mean when we pray, "hallowed be Thy name"?

When we pray "hallowed be Thy name"¹ we ask that God may enable us and others to glorify Him in all in which He makes himself known; ² and that He would overrule all things for His own glory. ³

¹ Matt 6:9; ² Psalm 67:2-3; ³ Psalm 83

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 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229) or visit our website (www.wepc.org/resources/giving) for online giving options.

Song of Praise

CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

Mine are days that God has numbered;
I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings.

*But mine is hope in my Redeemer.
Though I fall, His love is sure,
For Christ has paid for every failing.
I am His forevermore.*

Mine are tears in times of sorrow,
Darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel,
Where I see no earthly good.

*But mine is peace that flows from heaven
And the strength in times of need.
I know my pain will not be wasted;
Christ completes His work in me.*

Mine are days here as a stranger,
Pilgrim on a narrow way.
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name.

*But mine is armor for this battle,
Strong enough to last the war.
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore.*

*And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk.
For there my heart has found its Treasure;
Christ is mine forevermore, Christ is mine forevermore,
Christ is mine forevermore.*

"Your life is hidden with Christ in God." -Colossians 3:3
Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson ©2015 City Alight Music.
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God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Ezra 10:1-17

¹While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly. ²And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. ³Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. ⁴Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it." ⁵Then Ezra arose and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.

⁶Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he spent the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles. ⁷And a proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem, ⁸and that if anyone did not come within three days, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.

⁹Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. And all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain. ¹⁰And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. ¹¹Now then make confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives." ¹²Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "It is so; we must do as you have said. ¹³But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or for two, for we have greatly transgressed in this matter. ¹⁴Let our officials stand for the whole assembly. Let all in our cities who have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every city, until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned away from us." ¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supported them.

¹⁶Then the returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest selected men, heads of fathers' houses, according to their fathers' houses, each of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth month they sat down to examine the matter; ¹⁷and by the first

day of the first month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.

Sermon

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Confession of Sin

from *The Valley of Vision*

Eternal Father, You are good beyond all thought, but I am wretched, miserable, blind. My lips are ready to confess, but my heart is slow to feel, and my ways reluctant to amend. I bring my soul to You; break it, wound it, bend it, mold it. Grant that through the tears of repentance I may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving Cross. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

from *Revelation 1:4-6*

Grace to you and peace... from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

Jesus, keep me near the Cross.
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain...

*In the Cross, in the Cross
Be my glory ever,
'Til my ransomed soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

Near the Cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me.
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed His beams around me...

Near the Cross, O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me.
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me...

Near the Cross, I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
'Til I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river...

*"Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."
-Galatian 6:14
Fanny Crosby (1869); Tune: NEAR THE CROSS, William Doane (1869).
Public Domain*

O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, has suffered Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

*"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities."
-Isaiah 53:5*

Bernard of Clairvaux (11th century); Tune: HERZLICH TUT MICH
VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler (1601); adapted J.S. Bach (1729)

LOOK TO JESUS

Come ye souls by sin afflicted;
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down.
By the broken Law convicted,
Through the Cross, behold the crown.
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through Him alone.

Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet.
Christ will give you strength to bear it
While His grace shall guide your feet.
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory,
Where His ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the eyes that see Him;
Blest the ears that hear His voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust Him
And in Him alone rejoice.
His commandments, His commandments,
Then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly opened eyes.
Like full springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the Cross supplies.
All who taste, it all who taste it, all who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus,
Mercy flows through Him alone.

*"Come unto me...I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28
Joseph Swain (1792); Tune and add'l Words: ©2013 Kevin Twit. Used by
permission. CCLI #708363.*

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 100th", Louis Bourgeois (1551)

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." -Romans 12:12-13

Benediction

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Worship was led by **Pastor Kevin Greene**. **Pastor Kevin Greene**, **Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered**, and **Lori Bowman** led this morning's congregational singing. **Mike Perzanowski**, **Ross Bruning**, & **Elder Rick McWhorter** managed today's video live stream.