



Worship Bulletin

Dear Ones,

None of us prays as we should or even could. And yet, in our often failing and weak efforts at prayer, God moves.

Prayer is not a work whereby we gain the heart and ear of God. Prayer is not what connects us to God. Prayer is not a recitation of formulas that will manipulate God into acting on our behalf.

Prayer is simply the putting of our heart into words (or groans) before our Creator and Redeemer.

Rest in that today.

Warmly,
Steve

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

We are 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.

Preparation for Worship

Mercy in the Sight of This Man

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me." -Robert Murray M'Cheyne

"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will." -Proverbs 21:1

Call to Worship

Psalms 47:1-8. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

Clap your hands, all peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great King over all the earth.**

He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

**He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom He loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

**God reigns over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.**

Invocation

Song of Adoration

JESUS! WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS!

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners!

Jesus! Lover of my soul;

Friends may fail me, foes assail me,

He, my Savior, makes me whole...

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Hallelujah! What a Friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a Strength in weakness!

Let me hide myself in Him.

Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,

He, my Strength, my victory wins...

Jesus! What a Help in sorrow!

While the billows over me roll,

Even when my heart is breaking,

He, my Comfort, helps my soul...

Jesus! What a Guide and Keeper!

While the tempest still is high,

Storms about me, night overtakes me,

He, my Pilot, hears my cry...

Jesus! I do now receive Him,

More than all in Him I find.

He hath granted me forgiveness,

I am His, and He is mine...

"...A friend of tax collectors and sinners..." - Luke 7:34

John Wilbur Chapman (1910); Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard (1830).
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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 to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people

but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reflecting on the Lord’s Prayer

Adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 104 (1647)

What do we mean when we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread”?

When we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread”,¹ we ask that by God’s free gift we may receive a sufficient share of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them.²

¹ Matt. 6:11; ² Prov. 30:8-9, Gen. 28:20, I Tim. 4:4-5

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

Song of Praise

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my All shall be.
Perish ev’ry fond ambition,
All I’ve sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heav’n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like man, untrue;
And while Thou shalt smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me;
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
‘Till but drive me to Thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me,
Heav’n will bring me sweeter rest.
O, ‘tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
O, ‘twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go then, earthly fame and treasure!
Come disaster, scorn, and pain!
You redeem our pain for pleasure;
With Thy favor loss is gain.
I have called Thee, “Abba, Father”;
Wan’dring hearts are stayed on Thee:
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,
All must work for good to me.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation,
Rise o’er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in ev’ry station
Something still to do or bear;
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
What a Father’s smile is thine,
What a Savior died to win thee:
Child of heav’n shouldst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer;
Heav’n’s eternal days before thee,
God’s own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” -Mark 8:34

Henry F. Lyte (1824); Tune: ©2001 Bill Moore Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 1:11-2:8

1:11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

2:1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ graves, that I may rebuild it.” ⁶And the king said to me

(the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Sermon

Each Sunday, Worship Notes with the Scripture text, study questions, and recordings are posted at www.wepc.org/worship/sermons.

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, You are full of grace and truth, but our faith is weak and we have not understood Your sovereign rule in our lives. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns instead of submitting to Your Word. We have sought our own glory instead of obeying Your Law. We have not waited to find Your will for us. We have been given to the fear of man, and rocked by uncertainty. We have not noticed the needs of others around us. We have not trusted Your favor. Father, forgive us for our sins against You. Lord Jesus, lead us to follow you as Lord. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that Your good hand might be upon us. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

Romans 4:7-8

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should 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 sin 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 pow'r, 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.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son." -John 3:16
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IN NEED OF GRACE

In need of grace, in need of love,
In need of mercy raining down, from high above.
In need of strength, in need of peace,
In need of things that only You can give to me.

*In need of Christ, the perfect Lamb,
My Refuge strong, the great I AM;
This is my song, my humble plea,
I am Your child, I am in need.*

"My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 4:19
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ALL FOR JESUS

All for Jesus, all for Jesus!
All my being's ransomed pow'rs;
All my thoughts and words and doings,
All my days and all my hours.

Let my hands perform His bidding,
Let my feet run in His ways;
Let my eyes see Jesus only,
Let my lips speak forth His praise...

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Worldlings prize their gems of beauty,
Cling to gilded toys of dust,
Boast of wealth and fame and pleasure;
Only Jesus will I trust.

Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus,
I've lost sight of all beside;
So enchained my spirit's vision,
Looking at the Crucified...

Oh, what wonder! How amazing!
Jesus, glorious King of kings,
Deigns to call me His beloved,
Lets me rest beneath His wings...

"In view of God's mercy...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." - Romans 12:1
Mary D. James (1889) & Louisa Stead (1882, chorus). Tune: ©2001 Wade Jewett Music; William Kirkpatrick (1882, chorus). Used by permission.
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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 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

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.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Worship was led by **Pastor Kevin Greene**. **Trey Wickham**, **Robin Huff**, and **Pastor Kevin Greene** led this morning's congregational singing. **Rick McWhorter** and **Pastor Joe Brown** managed today's audio and video live stream.

Q & A with Pastor Steve Shelby:

Join Steve this morning after the worship service, as he responds live to some of your text inquiries related to the worship service. We welcome questions related to the sermon, as well as general responses to something that encouraged your heart during the service. We plan on the Q & A lasting approximately 10-15 minutes. Please text **804-608-9372** with your questions and encouragements.