



Worship Bulletin

Dear Ones,

Why is it so hard to do, say, think, and live like you know you are supposed to live? Because we seek comfort and because we are often unaware we live in a world of conflict.

The flesh and the spirit war against each other, and the demonic war against the church. Light is always in conflict with darkness. What is really crazy about these conflicts is that we switch sides. Sometimes we are light, and sometimes we are aligning ourselves with darkness.

We should not be surprised when our attempts at living in the light are met with opposition and darkness.

Warmly,

Steve

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Seventh 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

His Servants Will Arise and Build

"Our flesh, from the cradle to the tomb, is feeble, broken, ready to faint—the cause and the inlet of a thousand sorrows. All this shall yet be reversed... He who once hung upon the Cross, but now sits upon the throne, says, 'Behold, I make all things new'."
-*Horatius Bonar*

"For a Christian, there are, strictly speaking no chances. A secret master of ceremonies has been at work: Christ, who said to the disciples, 'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you'." -*C.S. Lewis*

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." -*Zechariah 4:6*

Call to Worship

Psalm 48:1-3, 12-14. A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God!

His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,

Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

Within her citadels God has made Himself known as a Fortress.

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

He will guide us forever.

Invocation

Song of Adoration

JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL

Jesus, Lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, 'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide, receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none; I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone, support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head in the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want, here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name; I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the Fountain art, let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart, for all eternity.

"You have been...a refuge for the needy in his distress." -Isaiah 25:4
Charles Wesley (1740); Tune: ©2000 Greg Thompson Music.
Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI #708363

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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

*For I am with you, I am with you.
I am with you, I am with you.
For I have called you,
Called you by name,
Your labor is not in vain.*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
For all that is old will at last be made new:
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit...

The houses you labored to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
And all that is broken be healed...

*"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." -I Corinthians 15:58
©2017 Porter's Gate Publishing (BMI). Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI #708363*

Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 105 (1647)

What do we mean when we pray, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"?

When we pray, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"¹ we ask that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins;² and we are encouraged to ask this because, by His grace, we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.³

¹ Matt. 6:12; ² Psalm 51:1-2, 7, 9, Dan 9:17-19; ³ Luke 11:4, Matt. 18:35

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

YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

Your labor is not in vain,
Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained.
Your planting and reaping are never the same,
But your labor is not in vain...

Your labor is not unknown,
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home,
But your labor is not unknown...

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 2:9-20

⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. ¹¹ So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³ I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴ Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. ¹⁵ Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. ¹⁶ And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." ¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Gessem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" ²⁰ Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

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

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 of Sin

Words of Encouragement

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise;
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come.
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

-1 John 4:16

Robert Robinson (1758); Tune: NETTLETON, Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music (1843). Public Domain

GIVE ME JESUS

In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
Give me Jesus.

*Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world,
But give me Jesus.*

And when I am alone,
And when I am alone,
And when I am alone,
Give me Jesus.

And when I come to die,
And when I come to die,
And when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up...He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the LORD helped us.'"-1 Samuel 7:12
African-American Spiritual. Public Domain.

ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away...

*I am bound (I am bound),
I am bound (I am bound),
I am bound for promised land.*

No chilling winds, nor pois'nous breath
Can reach that healthful shore.
Sickness, sorrow, pain, and death
Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place
And be forever blest?
When shall I see My Father's face
And in His bosom rest...

"They were longing for a better country -- a heavenly one."-Hebrews 11:16
Samuel Stennett, (1787); Tune: ©1997 Christopher Miner Music.
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

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**. **Elder Chris Newlin**, **Erin Bouknight**, and **Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered** led this morning's congregational singing. **Elder Gordon Kuhfuss** 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.