



West End

presbyterian church

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a time to ask God to help us confront our own mortality and sinfulness, to ask Him to show us our need for grace, to grow in repentance, and to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent—the period between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter—lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

TOOK COURAGE

“Think, soul, of what that Hand which holds the waters in its hollow, spreads the curtains of the sky, and was nailed to the Cross; that brought blessing with its touch to so many weary sufferers, and now holds the mysterious book, sealed with seven seals; that caught Peter, and lay lightly on the heads of the little babes. That Hand is strengthening you for a work for which by nature you are unequal, but to which you have been called. Go forward: it holds, guides, empowers you. It can lead you before kings, princes, and nobles, so that you shall not fear; it can preserve you from dangers innumerable; it can shield you from the fire of the enemy; and none, man or devil, can pluck you out of the Father's Hand.”

F.B. Meyer

“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

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Blessed are You, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

**Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the victory and the majesty,
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours.**

Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head above all.

**Both riches and honor come from You,
and You rule over all.**

In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

**And now we thank You, our God,
and praise Your glorious name.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

JUST AS I AM

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, Whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many conflicts, many doubts;
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now, to be Thine and Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*"All that the Father gives me will
come to me, and whoever comes
to me I will never cast out."
-John 6:37*

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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.*

DECLARING THE FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of the teachings of the apostles of Jesus Christ as they are recorded in the New Testament. This creed originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. The Apostles' Creed is recognized to contain the essential beliefs of Christianity by all Protestant, Roman Catholic, & Eastern Orthodox churches.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

REFLECTING ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Heidelberg Catechism,
Q&A 50-51 (1563)*

¹ Eph. 1:20-23, Col. 1:18;

² Matt. 28:18, John 5:22-23;

³ Acts 2:33, Eph. 4:7-12;

⁴ Ps. 110:1-2, John 10:27-30,
Rev. 19:11-16

Christian, what do you mean when you say that Jesus Christ “is seated at the right hand of God”?

**Because Christ ascended to heaven
to show that He is Head of His Church,¹
the One through whom the Father rules all things.²**

How does this glory of Christ our Head benefit us?

**First, through His Holy Spirit
He pours out gifts from heaven
upon us His members.³**

**Second, by His power He defends us
and keeps us safe from all enemies.⁴**

New Testament Reading

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

PRAYER FOR RESTORATION & RENEWAL

Pray for grace to direct our consciences and make us wise.

Our “Prayer for Restoration and Renewal” comes each week from Matthew Henry’s Method for Prayer, (www.matthewhenry.org).

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.

The offering isn’t just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God (Rom. 12:1).

SONG OF PRAISE

STEADFAST

I will build my house
Whether storm or drought
On the rock that does not move.
I will set my hope in Your love, O Lord,
And Your faithfulness will prove
You are steadfast, steadfast.

By the word You spoke, all the starry host
Are called out by name each night.
In Your watchful care, I will rest secure
As you lead us with Your light.
You are steadfast, steadfast.
You are steadfast, steadfast.

I will not trust in the strength of kings,
On Your promise I will stand.
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,
Hallelujah to the Lamb!
You are steadfast, steadfast.
You are steadfast, steadfast.

*“For you have been my
refuge, a strong tower
against the enemy.”
-Psalm 61:3*

Text & Tune: Joshua
Silverberg, Leslie Jordan,
Sandra McCracken
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SCRIPTURE Reading

Ezra 7:11-28

¹¹This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a man learned in matters of the commandments of the LORD and his statutes for Israel: ¹²"Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven. Peace. And now ¹³I make a decree that anyone of the people of Israel or their priests or Levites in my kingdom, who freely offers to go to Jerusalem, may go with you. ¹⁴For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand, ¹⁵and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, ¹⁶with all the silver and gold that you shall find in the whole province of Babylonia, and with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests, vowed willingly for the house of their God that is in Jerusalem. ¹⁷With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God that is in Jerusalem. ¹⁸Whatever seems good to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do, according to the will of your God. ¹⁹The vessels that have been given you for the service of the house of your God, you shall deliver before the God of Jerusalem. ²⁰And whatever else is required for the house of your God, which it falls to you to provide, you may provide it out of the king's treasury. ²¹"And I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers in the province Beyond the River: Whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, requires of you, let it be done with all diligence, ²²up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much. ²³Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, lest his wrath be against the realm of the king and his sons. ²⁴We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God. ²⁵"And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach. ²⁶Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment."²⁷Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem, ²⁸and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/sermons.

Confession of Sin

O Lord, You are the great and awesome God,
who keeps covenant and steadfast love
with those who love Him and keep His commandments.
We have done wrong, acted wickedly, and rebelled.
We have turned aside from Your commandments.
To You, O Lord, belongs righteousness,
but to us belongs open shame.
We have sinned against You.
We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.
We have not walked in the Law that You set before us.

Silent Confession of Sin

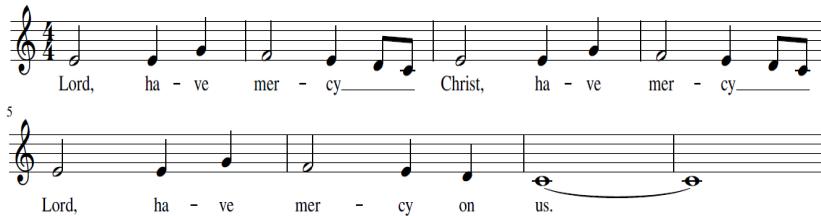
from Daniel 9:4-5, 7,10

Confession & Encouragement
Often we find that our hearts worship 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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner." -Luke 18:13

Ancient Greek hymn, 4th century; arr. Trenton Durham, 2019



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving,
even though we have rebelled against Him.
We do not make requests of You because we are righteous,
but because of Your great mercy.

Daniel 9:9,18

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME (PSALM 51)

*"Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast
love; according to your
abundant mercy blot out my
transgressions." -Psalm 51*

Text: Psalter 1912
Tune: ©1997 Christopher
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|---|---|
| 1. God be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea.
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now.
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin. | 4. Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just.
Let my contrite heart rejoice,
And in gladness hear Thy voice.
From my sins, O hide Thy face;
Blot them out in boundless grace. |
| 2. My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgment just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust. | 5. Gracious God, my heart renew;
Make my Spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee;
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me.
Thy salvation's joy impart;
Steadfast make my willing heart. |
| 3. I am evil born of sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art;
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart.
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow. | |

BE STILL MY SOUL (IN YOU I REST)

Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide.
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, thy best, thy heav'nly friend,
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake,
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

*In You I rest, in You I found my hope.
In You I trust, You never let me go.
I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still, my soul.*

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on,
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past;
All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last...

*"Be still, and know that I am God. I
will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
-Psalm 46:10*

Text & Tune: Jane Borthwick, Jason
Ingram, Jean Sibelius, Kari Jobe,
Kathrina Amalia von Schlegel
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*"Trust in the Lord forever, for
the Lord God is an everlasting
rock." -Isaiah 26:4*

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McCracken
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ROCK OF AGES (WHEN THE DAY SEEMS LONG)

Rock of Ages, when the day seems long,
From this labor and this heartache I have come.
The skies will wear out, but You remain the same,
Rock of Ages, I praise Your name.
Rock of Ages, You have brought me near.
You have poured out Your life-blood, Your love, Your tears.
To make this stone heart come alive again,
Rock of Ages, forgive my sin...

*Rock of Ages,
Rock of Ages,
Bind Your children until the kingdom comes;
Rock of Ages, Your will be done.*

Rock of Ages, when in want or rest,
My desperate need for such a Savior, I confess.
Pull these idols out from my heart's embrace,
Rock of Ages, I need Your grace.
Rock of Ages, broken, scorned for me.
Who am I that You would die to make me free?
To give me glory, You took the death and pain,
Rock of Ages, my Offering.

Rock of Ages, "It is done!" You cried.
The curtain's torn and I see justice satisfied.
Now write Your mercy on my heart and hands,
Rock of Ages, in faith I stand.
Rock of Ages, my great hope secure.
Your promise holds just like an anchor to my soul.
Bind Your children with cords of love and grace,
Rock of Ages, we give You praise.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."
– Psalm 150:6

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

What does "doxology" mean?

It's 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

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Music was led by Elder Chris Newlin, along with Erin Bouknight and Kevin Greene.

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.

***The James River Presbytery will hold a **Day of Fasting and Prayer** on Monday, March 23. To read more about this event, please visit www.wepc.org/daily-church-updates.*