



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, March 24, 2019

The Third Sunday in Lent

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#) *Come, Everyone Who Thirsts*

[Psalm 63:1-8](#) *My Soul Clings to You*

[I Corinthians 10:1-13](#) *Take Heed*

[Luke 13:1-9](#) *A Fig Tree*

Monday, March 25, 2019

[Psalm 39](#) *The Measure of My Days*

[Jeremiah 11:1-17](#) *Judgment Against the Olive Tree*

[Romans 2:1-11](#) *No Partiality*

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

[Psalm 39](#) *The Measure of My Days*

[Ezekiel 17:1-10](#) *Will it Thrive?*

[Romans 2:12-16](#) *Written on Hearts*

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

[Psalm 39](#) *The Measure of My Days*

[Numbers 13:17-27](#) *This is Its Fruit*

[Luke 13:18-21](#) *Seed & Leaven*

Thursday, March 28, 2019

[Psalm 32](#) *You Preserve Me*

[Joshua 4:1-13](#) *Finished Passing Over*

[II Corinthians 4:16-5:5](#) *Longing to Put On Our Heavenly Dwelling*

Friday, March 29, 2019

[Psalm 32](#) *You Preserve Me*

[Joshua 4:14-24](#) *Until we Passed Over*

[II Corinthians 5:6-15](#) *Walk By Faith, Not Sight*

Saturday, March 30, 2019

[Psalm 32](#) *Preserve Me*

[Exodus 32:7-14](#) *The LORD Relented*

[Luke 15:1-10](#) *Found*

Unless You Repent

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 13:1-9](#)

¹ There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

- What Jesus said when confronted with the suffering that comes from living in a fallen world.
- Did Jesus say, "No, their sin was not extraordinarily horrible. It was ordinarily horrible, just like yours. And if you don't repent, you too will experience a horrible end, all of you." Or, Jesus could you at least 'judge' Pilate?
- However, Jesus deals pastorally with the people right in front of Him.
- To repent means to turn to Him who is the only one who can deliver us from this fallen and sinful world and from the fallenness and sinfulness that is at work in us, not to judge others.
- If Jesus ended His words at verse 5, this would be a stark passage but the parable He tacks on is our great reason for hope.
- What is the point of the fruitless fig tree?
- That is what sinners, those who fall short of the glory of God, look like. It is not that we don't have enough fruit. It's that, on our own, we have no fruit. None. And what we deserve is to be dug up or cut down. But there is One who has come to have mercy on us. That we be let alone (or literally: forgiven) for our unfruitfulness, and be given extra care, that we might live and bear fruit. And notice, this is all despite the tree. It's not that the tree shows promise, or used to be good, or anything in the tree itself. It is all apart from the tree, or outside the tree - purely from the grace and mercy of its vinedresser, who is now its Saviour. So now, it is not just that we should repent but that we can.
- This care Jesus now provides for you and me. Digging around in our lives, that He might feed us with His fertilizer. And what is His fertilizer? It is He Himself, His word, His body and blood.
- So we have hope.
- Jesus takes what is fruitless and by his work transforms us. We don't change ourselves.
- We are not alone, for we have a loving and faithful vinedresser.
- He loves the fruitless tree and pays much attention to it.
- In many ways, Jesus became the fruitless tree, chopped down and thrown out so that he could be resurrected.
- Just as his work bears fruit in our lives, now we can be a part of the work to cause fruit to be borne in the lives of others.

*To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org*