



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, August 11, 2019

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Genesis 15:1-6](#) *The LORD's Promise*

[Psalm 33:12-22](#) *Our Soul Waits for the LORD*

[Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16](#) *These All Died in Faith*

[Luke 12:32-40](#) *Anticipate the Kingdom*

Monday, August 12

[Psalm 89:1-18](#) *The LORD's Covenant Promise*

[II Chronicles 33:1-17](#) *Manasseh's Repentance*

[Hebrews 11:1-7](#) *The Faith of the People of Old*

Tuesday, August 13

[Psalm 89:1-18](#) *The LORD's Covenant Promise*

[II Chronicles 34:22-33](#) *Huldah Preaches God's Covenant*

[Hebrews 11:17-28](#) *The Faith of Abraham's Descendants*

Wednesday, August 14

[Psalm 89:1-18](#) *The LORD's Covenant Promise*

[Jeremiah 33:14-26](#) *The LORD Remembers His Covenant*

[Luke 12:41-48](#) *The Lord is Coming*

Thursday, August 15

[Psalm 82](#) *Arise, O God, Judge the Earth*

[Joshua 7:1, 10-26](#) *The Judgment of Achan*

[Hebrews 10:26-31](#) *The Hands of the Living God*

Friday, August 16

[Psalm 82](#) *Arise, O God, Judge the Earth*

[I Samuel 5:1-12](#) *The Judgment of the Philistines*

[Hebrews 10:32-39](#) *Do Not Throw Away Your Confidence*

Saturday, August 17

[Psalm 82](#) *Arise, O God, Judge the Earth*

[I Samuel 6:1-16](#) *The Ark Returned to Israel*

[Matthew 24:15-27](#) *The Abomination of Desolation*

A Better Country

This week, Steve Shelby preached on Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible...

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she

considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- The nature of faith. It is seeing what is invisible.
- “Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.” ([Genesis 12:1-4](#))
- Our Father in the faith emigrated from his home in obedience to God to come to the land of promise. How this promise worked itself out:
- “Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her. Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites. He said, ‘I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead’.” ([Genesis 23:1-4](#))
- “All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him. Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah—the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.” ([Genesis 49:28-32](#))
- The patriarchs all died in faith, looking forward to the day when the promise of God would be fulfilled.
- All human beings are looking for a home.
- Does your heart live in a “tent”?
- What kind of people are we?
- “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land.” ([Leviticus 25:23-24](#))
- Where our sojourn ends.