



## 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](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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### Sunday, August 18, 2019

*The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time*

[Jeremiah 23:23-29](#) *Is Not My Word Like Fire?*

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

[Hebrews 11:29-12:2](#) *Look to Jesus*

[Luke 12:49-56](#) *I Came to Cast Fire*

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### Monday, August 19

[Psalm 32](#) *Whose Sin is Covered*

[Jeremiah 23:30-40](#) *False Prophets*

[John 4:1-6](#) *False Prophets*

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### Tuesday, August 20

[Psalm 32](#) *Whose Sin is Covered*

[Jeremiah 25:15-29](#) *The Cup of God's Wrath*

[Acts 7:44-53](#) *Our Ancestors Persecuted*

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### Wednesday, August 21

[Psalm 32](#) *Whose Sin is Covered*

[Jeremiah 25:30-38](#) *He Will Roar Mightily Against His Fold*

[Luke 19:45-48](#) *He Began to Drive Out*

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### Thursday, August 22

[Psalm 103:1-8](#) *Bless His Holy Name*

[Numbers 15:32-41](#) *Commandments*

[Hebrews 12:3-17](#) *The Lord's Discipline*

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### Friday, August 23

[Psalm 103:1-8](#) *Bless His Holy Name*

[II Chronicles 8:12-15](#) *Solomon Honors the Sabbath*

[Acts 17:1-9](#) *Paul Reasons on the Sabbath*

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### Saturday, August 24

[Psalm 103:1-8](#) *Bless His Holy Name*

[Nehemiah 13:15-22](#) *Nehemiah Enforces the Sabbath*

[Luke 6:1-5](#) *Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath*

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## Look to Jesus

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Hebrews 11:29-12:2](#)

<sup>11:29</sup> By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they

were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—<sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup> And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- How do you want to be remembered?
- The point of today's passage is to lay aside every weight and sin, to run with endurance the race that is life. We do this by looking to Jesus as the Founder of our faith. We consider Jesus by looking at His people. Particularly people who endured conflict and suffering. The "cloud of witnesses". (1)
- What is it about these people that we should emulate?
  - The people who crossed the Red Sea (29)
  - Rahab the prostitute (31)
  - Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel (32)
- "But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." ([Hebrews 10:32-36](#))
- We don't need to "win" this race, we are not competing with one another, we need to finish (1)
- We can finish because the ultimate source of endurance is Jesus. We have witnesses to him in abundance.
- Because Jesus bore our shame, we need not be ashamed of our ancestors in the faith (2)
- The hardest life in Christ ends in eternal joy