

Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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July 19, 2020

Virtual Service for the Lord's Day



GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements:

- **Welcome Rev. Dr. Jonathan Barker! We are excited that you have joined us as interim pastor.**
- If you wish to include prayer requests for our Wednesday Conference Prayer Call, please email your request to Amy or Bruce by noon on Tuesday. amy@wbpresbyterian.org or bgrady9039@gmail.com Type "Prayer Request" in the subject line. Please be specific and concise.
- Have you heard about congregations becoming a "Matthew 25 Church"? There are already PC(USA) congregations that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches. We aim to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses: 1) Building Congregational Vitality, 2) Dismantling Structural Racism, and 3) Eradicating Systemic Poverty. See the following link for more details. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/become-a-matthew-25-church/>
- Are you interested in an excellent resource that explains systemic racism in our criminal justice system? See a powerful Netflix documentary (13th) at this link: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741>.
- Racial Justices Resources Recommended by the PCUSA: <https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/>
- ***Wear Masks and Gloves in Public. Wash Hands Frequently. If You are Sick, Stay Home. Apply Extra Precaution if You are High Risk. Please Stay Safe!***

Pastoral Concerns:

- Pray for WBPC, our country and our world.
- Pray for former member, Cris Butcher, who is in bootcamp with the US Marine Corp (Paris Island, SC).
- Pray for Jeff Landons, Joe and Becky Burmester's son-in-law.
- Nicolas Melomo is a member of BSA Troop 398 and his family.

Call to Worship

So we plant a seed and pray for success.

We spray against weeds and do our best to protect our tender shoots.

But every now and then a weed appears: a scornful voice, an ill-mannered remark, a miss-judged comment, a thoughtless word.

Here in this place, at this time we come to our God;

God who cares tenderly and lovingly whenever given the chance.

Come let us worship the Sower of good seeds our Head Gardener and Lord.

Opening Song

"Prelude in C Major, BWV 554"

J. S. Bach
Elizabeth Davis

Facing our Sin and Trusting God's Grace

Patient Lord, it is so easy for us to focus on all the things that are wrong. We spend much time and energy in anger and sorrow, leaving behind the possibilities of hope and service to you. Ease our hearts, O Lord. Forgive our willingness to get caught up in the negative. Direct our steps toward positive actions that will produce growth and peace. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Kyrie

"I Am Thine O' Lord (Draw Me Nearer)"

Fanny Crosby (1875)

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

"Plenty Good Room"

Spiritual
arr. Van-Anthoney Hall

First Reading:**Genesis 28:10-16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!"

Second Reading:**Romans 8:12-17; 24-25 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Reading:**Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

²⁴ Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The dominion of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ Jesus answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son-of-Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of God's dominion; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son-of-Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his dominion all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the dominion of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

 **PROCLAMATION** 

The Word Proclaimed

“Coping with Weeds”

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Barker

 **RESPONSE** 

Invitation to Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

CONFESSION OF BELHAR (Book of Confessions 2016)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian Church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe

- That Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;
- that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;
- that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope.

Amen

Tithes and Offerings

One of the ways that we continue to worship God, in the midst of “Social Distancing”, is through GIVING.

If you prefer to present your tithes and offering...

By Check:

Check offerings can be mailed to the church office.

Mail your check to: Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church 4900 Kaplan Drive Raleigh, NC 27606

Give on-line:

Once your profile is set up, just go to <https://wbpresbyterian.com/> and open the pull down menu on the left and click the "GIVE".

From here you can enter your gift amount, the designated fund and frequency of giving.

By Text:

To give via text, send WBPC to the phone number 73256. You'll receive a text message in response with your next steps. After you give one time, your payment method is saved, so you can quickly give again from your phone.

Offertory

"Bless Me (Prayer of Jabez)"

by Donald Laurence
Van-Anthoney Hall

Prayers of the People

Lord, we would grow with you
New shoots reaching out
Hands stretched upward
Like leaves newly formed
Soaking up your light and warmth
Lord, we would grow with you
Lord, we would grow with you
In sunshine and rain
In darkness and light
In cold days and summer days
From Springtime to Winter
Lord, we would grow with you
Lord, we would grow with you
And bring forth fruit
That is pleasing to you
Fed by your living water
Giving sustenance to others
Lord, we would grow with you

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



SENDING



Charge and Benediction

Closing Hymn

Postlude on "Blessed Assurance"

arr. Elizabeth Davis

Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;
Bruce T. Grady, Associate Pastor;
Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music;
Van-Anthoney Hall, Leader of @The Table Worship;
Jeff Cleveland, Videography and Production

Prayers of the People- "Lord, We Would Grow With You"
~ contemporary Welsh prayer posted on A Place for Prayer.
<http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>

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We live to share God's love for ALL.