

Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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August 9, 2020

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Virtual Service for the Lord's Day



❧ GATHERING ❧

Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns:

Welcome to this celebration of worship, the 10th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost

- If you would like to learn more about what Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church can expect during the joint interim pastoral ministry: [THE INTERIM MINISTRY AT WESTERN BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH](#)
- 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 Justice 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 Melom is a member of BSA Troop 398 and his family.
- LouGene Hempill is having severe pain in her shoulder. Please pray for her and the doctors who are seeking to identify the issue.
- Denise Weeks reports that Michael, her brother, had 2 superficial tumors removed from his bladder. A dye study did not show any kidney tumors – so she is grateful for all the prayers.
- Becky and Joe Burmester report prayers of thanksgiving for their son-in-law, Jeff Landon, recovering in ICU following a successful quadruple bypass surgery. Please pray for patience and healing.
- Please continue to pray for the family of Alice Powell who died July 19 at her home in Boone, NC. Alice and her husband, Dick, were very active members of WBPC for many years before they moved to Virginia.

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Opening Prayer

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death. On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. Through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"In the Beauty of Holiness"

by Nettie L. Sawyer Lester

1992

Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Give Him the honor, give Him the praise
Come let us worship the Lord, lets give Him the praise

Worship Him, worship Him
Give our our God the glory; Give our God the praise
Worship Him, worship him
Come let us worship the Lord lets give Him the praise.

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved

kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Lord, hear our individual silent prayers of confession ...

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Passing of Christ's Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Hymn

"We Are One in the Spirit"

by Peter Scholtes

1966



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit within us, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (NIV)

37:1 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan.

37:2 This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock

with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.

37:4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

37:12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

37:13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am."

37:14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem,

37:15 and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"

37:16 "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock."

37:17 The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.

37:18 They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.

37:19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer.

37:20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

37:21 But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life."

37:22 Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" --that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

37:23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore;

37:24 and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

37:25 Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

37:26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?"

37:27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed.

37:28 When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22–33 (NIV)

14:22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

14:23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

14:24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

14:25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

14:26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

14:28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

14:29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

14:30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

14:32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

14:33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

May we be the feet and the voices bringing good news to those nearby who have not heard of Christ. To the glory and power of God's Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Word Proclaimed

"TRUST: Christ's Ministry of Presence"

Jonathan Barker

Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Hymn of Proclamation

"God of the Sparrow"

by Jaroslav J. Vajda

1983

God of the sparrow, God of the whale

God of the swirling stars:

How does the creature say awe,

How does the creature say praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast:

How does the creature cry woe,

How does the creature cry save?

God of the ages, God near at hand,

God of the loving heart:

How do your children say joy,

How do your children say home?

Prayers of the People

Offering

In response to the grace we have received, we joyfully offer our gifts that Christ's church may flourish.

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 Song *"How Great Is Our God"* by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash

Prayer of Dedication

God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

 **SENDING** 

Hymn of Sending

"Here I Am, Lord"

by Daniel L. Schutte

1981

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)
Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)

Blessing and Charge

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

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We live to share God's love for ALL.