

Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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August 23, 2020

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Virtual Service for the Lord's Day



❧ **GATHERING** ❧

Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns:

Welcome to this celebration of worship on the 12th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost.

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

- 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.

- Please be in prayer for Susan Sternberger who has been recovering from a heart valve replacement surgery done in June. She has been readmitted to Rex Hospital for fluid retention and weakness.
- Our sympathies extended to Cinderella Sohail and her family upon the death of her brother, Robin Victor.

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

O sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing, and give praise to God's name;

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day. Ps. 96:1, 2

Opening Prayer

O God, light of the hearts that see you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you:

to turn from you is to fall, to turn to you is to rise, to abide in you is to stand fast forever.

Although we are unworthy to approach you, or to ask anything at all of you, grant us your grace and blessing for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

EINE FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God,
 a bulwark never failing;
 our helper he, amid the flood
 of mortal ills prevailing.
 For still our ancient foe
 does seek to work us woe;
 his craft and power are great,
 and armed with cruel hate,
 on earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Call to Confession

The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. God will not reject God's people. Knowing God is merciful and abounding in steadfast love, always willing to hear our prayers and accept our heartfelt confession, we turn to our Lord with boldness, speaking aloud the ways we fail to be the people God calls us to be.

Prayer of Confession

God of all people, we come before you this day keenly aware of the ways we fall short of your vision for us and for our life together. You tell us how good and pleasant it is when we dwell together in unity, and yet we create division and cultivate disdain. You command us to care for each other, but we send away those crying out for help. You call us and put us together in community, but we want to pick and choose those with whom we associate. Forgive us for thinking we are self-sufficient and independent, rather than utterly dependent

upon you and in need of each other. Help us to see ourselves and others as the beloved reflections of the divine we are and give us the grace to treat each other as such. Amen.

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

God does not reject God's people. God is merciful to all. Friends, believe the good news and be at peace: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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.

And also with you.

Song

"Sweet Sweet Spirit"

Doris Akers

Verse 1

There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord
There are sweet expressions on each face
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord

Chorus

Sweet Holy Spirit
Sweet heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us
Filling us with Your love
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise
Without a doubt we'll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, the noise all around us is loud and frightening. We find ourselves anxious and distracted, worried about much we cannot control. We long to hear you tell us to not be afraid. We ask again for the gift of your peace that passes understanding. As the Word is read and proclaimed, send your Holy Spirit to help us rightly hear and respond. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 1:8–1:12, 1:15–17, 1:21–22, 2:1–2:10 (NIV)

1:8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

1:9 He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.

1:10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

1:11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.

1:12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

1:15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

1:16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."

1:17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

1:21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

2:2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.

2:3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

2:4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

2:5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

2:6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

2:7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

2:8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

2:9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

2:10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Gospel:

Matthew 13:13–20 (NIV)

16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

16:14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

16:17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

16:20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell
anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word Proclaimed

"Christian Identity"

Jonathan Barker, D.Min.

A Brief Statement of Faith

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all.

Hymn of Proclamation

"Who You Say I Am" by Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan

Prayers of the People

Offering

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

"We Are an Offering"

by Dwight Liles

Prayer of Dedication



Hymn of Sending

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

WAREHAM

The Church of Christ in ev'ry age
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

Then let the servant Church arise,
A caring Church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating Word.

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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Who You Say I Am CCLI Song #7102401

We Are an Offering CCLI Song #16220

We live to share God's love for ALL.