

Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Virtual Service for the Lord's Day



❧ GATHERING ❧

Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns:

- 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/>.
- Sarah Junkin Woodard of the Jubilee House/CDCA in Nicaragua will be giving an update to the congregation via Zoom on Sunday, September 13 from 5:00–6:00 pm. Please contact Susan Cummings, scummings58@gmail.com, for more information.
- ***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).
- Nicolas Melomo 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.
- Please be in prayer for Susan Sternberger who has been recovering from a heart valve replacement surgery done in June.
- Our sympathies extended to Cinderella Sohail and her family upon the death of her brother, Robin Victor.
- Elizabeth Davis's great aunt, Lois Tolar, who is hospitalized with COVID and severe pneumonia. She is not responding to treatment.
- Ed and Kathy Johson's son, Ned, who tested positive for COVID. Please pray his supervisor is empathetic and he maintains his job as he heals.

- Chedlin Justinvil and his sister, Sherly. Their mother, Loreine Desir, recently passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease.
- Friends and members, Pansy and Rush Grimes, at Ed Johnson's church whose son, Will Gautier (age 25) was found dead in his apartment. He was a chef at Mitch's Tavern on Hillsborough Street.
- Sympathies extended to Holly Webster and family upon the recent death of her cousin's niece, Marie, from COVID on Thursday, Sept. 10
- Sympathies extended to Jimmy Wade and family upon the recent death of his niece, Melanie Wade Woodwin, on Tuesday, Sept. 1.
- Prayers for Lori Grippo as she had a cancer scan this past Tuesday.
- Sympathies extended to Libby Burton and family upon the recent death of her brother, Javis Arey, on Tuesday, Sept. 1.
- Happiest of birthday wishes goes out to Les Parnell who is turning 97 soon! If you wish to send him a birthday card, his address is 3712 Lail Ct., Raleigh, NC 27606

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?
We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
 Let us now worship our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

Come Thou fount of every blessing
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above.
 Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
 Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
 Hither by Thy help I'm come;

And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess separating ourselves from you, our shortcomings in loving ourselves and others, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

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.**

Musical Response

"This is The Day"

by Les Garrett

Children's Message



Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture:

Genesis 50:15–21

NIV Version

50:15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

50:16 So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died,

50:17 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

50:18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

50:19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

50:20 Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

50:21 So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Epistle:**Romans 14:8–12****NIV Version**

14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

14:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

14:11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

14:12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel:**Matthew 18:21–35****NIV Version**

18:21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

18:22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

18:23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

18:24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

18:25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

18:26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

18:27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

18:28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'

18:29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

18:30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

18:31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

18:32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

18:33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'

18:34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

18:35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word Proclaimed *"Extravagant Forgiveness"* Jonathan C. Barker, D.Min

A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of Proclamation

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

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

"Nocturne in E Minor, Op. 72/1, posth."

by Frederic Chopin
Julian Bradley, piano

Prayer of Dedication



Hymn of Sending

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river,
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing – You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched Him, saw His
glory,

Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Blessing and Charge

Worship Leaders:

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

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We live to share God's love for ALL.