

Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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September 20, 2020

16th 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/>.
- *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.
- Praises for Cris Butcher, who graduated bootcamp with the US Marine Corp (Paris Island, SC) on 9-11-20
- 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.
- 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.
- Our sympathies extended to Elizabeth Davis and her family as her great aunt, Lois Tolar, passed away on Sept. 15. Prayers appreciated for the family, her husband, Ron, and children, Ron and Rhonda, during this time.
- Ed and Kathy Johnson's son, Ned, who is recovering from COVID. He remains congested but slowly improving.
- 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.
- Praises for Lori Grippo as her cancer scan came back free and clear of cancer!
- 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
- For Pat Byers' friend, Gloria, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.
- For Amy Allridge, WBPC administrative assistant, who is having extensive surgery on Oct. 22.
- Prayers of thanksgiving as Jeff Landon, son-in-law of Joe and Becky Burmester, is well on the way to complete recovery and has returned to work full-time.
- For Gwen Orilio as she discusses a treatment plan with her doctors as several small "spots" on her bones have recently been discovered.

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known the Lord's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to our Creator, sing praises to the one who gave us life; tell of all the Lord's wonderful works.

Glory in Gods' holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD's strength; seek our redeemer's presence continually.

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise

"In the Beauty of Holiness"

by Lester Sawyer (1992)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ;

but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life;

but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life, but we refuse the struggle to know your will; we do not nurture the ways of peace; we allow enmity and hatred to grow among us, putting neighbor against neighbor, and nation against nation. We abuse the earth you entrust to our care, and live in discord with all you made.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion all for whom Christ died; but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed and the plight of the poor. We take bread from the hungry, and will not listen to cries for justice.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises you made to us in our baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful children, showing your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

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

"We Are Forgiven"

by Hal H. Hopson (1995)

Children's Message



THE WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15 NIV Version

16:2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

16:3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

16:5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

16:6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

16:7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?"

16:8 And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

16:9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'"

16:10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

16:11 The LORD spoke to Moses and said,

16:12 "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you

shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God."

16:13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

16:14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

16:15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16 NIV Version

20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

20:2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

20:3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;

20:4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

20:5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

20:6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

20:7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

20:8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

20:9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

20:10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

20:11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,

20:12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

20:13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?

20:14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

20:15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

20:16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Word Proclaimed *"Life By the Zero Sum Rule"* Jonathan C. Barker, D.Min

Affirmation of Faith

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in

heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. Phil. 2:5-11

Hymn of Proclamation

"Is It Good to Sing Your Praises"

ELLESDIE

It is good to sing your praises and to thank you, O Most High,
Showing forth your loving kindness when the morning lights the sky.
It is good when night is falling of your faithfulness to tell,
While with sweet, melodious praises songs of adoration swell.

You have filled my heart with gladness through the works your hands have wrought;
You have made my life victorious great your works and deep your thought.
You, O Lord, on high exalted, reign forever more in might;
All your enemies shall perish, sin be banished from your sight.

But the good shall live before you, planted in your dwelling place,
Fruited trees and ever verdant, nourished by your boundless grace.
In his goodness to the righteous God his righteousness displays;
God, my rock, my strength and refuge, just and true are all your ways.

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

"I Love You Lord Today"

by William Hubbard (1985 Chinwah Songs)

Prayer of Dedication



Hymn of Sending

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where-e'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, though, God, art present there

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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In the Beauty of Holiness by Lester Sawyer (1992) hymn no. 106 African American Heritage Hymnal

We Are Forgiven by Hal H. Hopson (1995) hymn no. 447 Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal

I Love You Lord Today by William Hubbard (1985 Chinwah Songs) hymn no. 580 African American Heritage Hymnal

We live to share God's love for ALL.