



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church
A Church of the PC(USA)

4900 Kaplan Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

November 8, 2020

23th Sunday after Pentecost
Dedication of Pledges and Caregiver Sunday

GATHERING

Prelude

Prelude in C Major, BWV 553

J.S. Bach

Greeting

Minute for Stewardship

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act --- Proverbs 3:27

Tithing enables us, as children of God, to share our income, our time, and talents to help support and grow the church and spread the good news of

Jesus Christ throughout our community, our state, our nation, and the world. To us it is an act of love, a way of giving of ourselves to help God's people, to better the world. Stewardship packets were mailed October 23rd. Please return pledge card and time and talent sheet in included stamped envelope. If you have not received your packet, please contact the church office.

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

The one who cared about us before we were born,

The one who loved us in our mother's womb,

The one who persistently has never let us go,

Is present with us now.

Let us worship God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Opening Prayer

God of captives and pilgrims,
you brought your people home from despair
and gave them a land of freedom and plenty.
Look in mercy on us your servants,
deliver us from the prison of selfishness and sin,
and bring us home to justice, sharing, and compassion,
the realm you promised all the world
in Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.

Opening Hymn

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

ST. THOMAS

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
The brightest glorious earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

Call to Confession

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
We come to God now with our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of love and new life, on this Caregiver Sunday, we praise you that in your grace and love you always care for us. We confess that we have often overlooked and forgotten the most vulnerable among us and those who care for them.

Lord, by your grace, forgive us.

We give thanks that you are a God who promises never to forget, even when we seem to forget you. Forgive us for our lack of concern for those with dementia and others in need of care and for those who carry the burdens of caregiving.

Lord, forgive us and awaken our hearts and minds to the need around us. Lord, teach us to love sacrificially as Jesus did. Today we commit to supporting those with physical, mental and emotional need and their caregivers. Lord, guide us and give us strength in Christ's name. Amen.

(Silence for reflection)

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.

Hear the teaching of Christ:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Passing of Christ's Peace

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-16*

24:1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

24:3a Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

24:14 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

24:15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region

beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

24:16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

25:2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

25:3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

25:4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

25:5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

25:6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

25:7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

25:8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

25:9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

25:10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

25:11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'

25:12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

25:13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon

Wounded Healers Carry the Light Toward Love

Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Barker

RESPONSE

Ascription of Praise

Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Dedication of 2021 Pledges and Our Offering

Offering

(See options for giving at the end of the bulletin)

Offertory Response

Give Me Jesus

traditional, arr. Elizabeth Davis

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Sending Hymn

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope,
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
Until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
The busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
Our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work,
Remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
Remembering love is the strength of our song.

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

OFFERING OPTIONS

By Check:

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

Give On-line:

Go to <https://wbpresbyterian.com/>

Open the pull down menu on the top left and click "GIVE".

From here you can register and 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.

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Requests

If you wish to make a prayer request, call or email your request to Amy by Tuesday. amy@wbpresbyterian.org – Type "Prayer Request" in the subject line. Please be specific and concise.

Pastoral Concerns

- For Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church, members and friends, the session, teachers and church leaders. Pray for our nation and all nations.
- For Miss Ella, who is now in hospice care in heart and kidney failure.
- For Holly Webster's seminary partner, Rochester Neely, who just lost his nephew to Covid-19 & the president of Holly's seminary, Rev. Dr. Jody Hill, who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- For Amy Allridge, WBPC administrative assistant, who is recovering after having extensive surgery on Oct. 22.
- For the Family of Eleanor Sykes, who passed away at the age of 97. Eleanor was a long-time member of Western Boulevard.

Worship Leaders:

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

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We live to share God's love for ALL.