



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

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

www.wbpresbyterian.org

November 15, 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Hunger & Homelessness Sunday

GATHERING

Prelude

Prelude on ST. AGNES

Gordon Young

Greeting

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

All God's people gather together—

To worship and praise our Living God!

The strong and the weak;

The housed and the homeless;

The fed and the hungry;
 The healthy and the sick;
The citizen and the immigrant;
 The wealthy and the poor;
All God's people gather together—
 To worship and praise our Living God!

Opening Prayer

Holy God of Israel, you faithfully keep the promises
you made to our ancestors and still lead your people into the future,
providing hospitality on the way.
Help us who inherit the pilgrim life to journey faithfully
at your command, that we may be a band of disciples
called to be sojourners in your service. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we admit our failure to model your compassion for ones in need. We did not house the homeless; feed the hungry; welcome the stranger; or comfort the sick and imprisoned. We put self before neighbor by striving for our own security and benefit. We ignored your presence among the suffering by seeking first our own gain. Forgive us, Lord. Open our eyes and our hearts to see and sense our neighbors in need. Take our lives and place them in service among those who suffer daily. Use us, Lord, as vessels of your mercy and compassion. Amen.

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

(Silence for reflection)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Passing of Christ's Peace

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the
Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen, amen.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 90: 1-8, 12

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

1
Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

2
Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3
You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

4
A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.

5
Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:

6
In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.

7
We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.

8
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

12
Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–5

The Apostle Paul writes to the Christians in the town of Thessalonica reminding them that as they await the coming of Christ they are children of the light. Today's reading is two weeks before the season of Advent

begins reminding us we too are children of Christ's light. Hear God's word.

5:1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.

5:2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

5:3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

5:4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;

5:5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Like last week's parable was of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Today we have another parable concerning both grace and judgement. Hear the Gospel of our Lord.

25:14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

25:15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

25:16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

25:17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

25:18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

25:19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

25:20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

25:21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

25:23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

25:25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

25:26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?

25:27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

25:28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

25:29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

25:30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Sermon

Investing in the New Normal Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Barker

RESPONSE

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Proclamation

In My Life

LORD BE GLORIFIED

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In our song, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In our song, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

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.

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

Offertory Response *Simple Gifts*
Susan Cummings, flute

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Sending Hymn *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

Postlude on ST. ANNE

Gordon Young

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 Peggy Stevens, who is recovering at home after a hospitalization.
 - For Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church, members and friends, the session, teachers and church leaders. Pray for our nation and all nations.
 - For Ella McNeill, who is now in hospice care in heart and kidney failure.
 - 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.
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Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;
Bruce T. Grady, Associate Pastor;
Robert Owens, Liturgist;
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.