



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

A Church of the PC(USA)

4900 Kaplan Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

November 29, 2020

10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Greeting

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

The heavens are trembling with anticipation,
And we wait for Jesus.

The nights are long and the days are short,
And we wait for Jesus.

Our redemption is drawing near,
And we wait for Jesus.

Let us hope in God and worship as people ready to see the salvation of
our God!

Prayer of the Day

Come into our midst, O Holy One,
Rider of the Clouds of Heaven,
Surprising answer to heartfelt prayer.
In whatever way you choose—
Come. Shake us up.
Help us find you at work in our lives
Showing the way to make all things new.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Charles, Suzanne, and Lydia Smith

Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Van-Anthoney Hall

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

This has been a year to lament—
Grief and loss,
Crisis when social structures have failed the common good
Complicity when age-old prejudices found new and cruel expression:
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
This has been a year to wake up—
To read the “signs of the times”
To wake up to painful truths, and give them voice
To ponder the changes needed for a just world for all:
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
This has been a year to call God into our sorry midst—
Show us your face!
Encourage us in the face of brutal realities,
Empower us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you
On the way in which you make all things new.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Kyrie

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us;
Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us;
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Assurance of Pardon and New Life

Passing of Christ's Peace

As God has forgiven us in Christ, we too forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Song *Soon and Very Soon (We Are Going To See the King)* Andre Crouch

THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture *Isaiah 64:1-9*

- 1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence
- 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- 4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
- 5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

- But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- 6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- 7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity
- 8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
- 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

- ²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
- ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power
and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from
the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
- ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when
you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very
gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these
things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words
will not pass away.
- ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know
when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he

leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Sermon

Get Ready and Stay Ready!

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

RESPONSE

Ascription of Praise

Invitation to Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called
to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness
both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwells.**

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.

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings

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

Offertory Response

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Sending Hymn

'Till We Meet Again (God Be With You)

Parting Prayer

Charge and Blessing

Send us into the world refreshed in hope,
Awake, alert,
attuned to your presence
ready to join your work of blessing for all.
Amen

Postlude

Soon and Very Soon (Reprisal)

OFFERING OPTIONS

By Check:

Mail to: Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church 4900 Kaplan
Drive Raleigh, NC 2760

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.

Announcements

- ENDOWMENT FUND REQUESTS – WBPC's Endowment Fund currently has \$4,000 available for utilization to support the benevolent, education, and mission work of the church. These funds cannot be used for the operation of the church or its regularly budgeted program. Requests for these monies should be made by Dec. 6, 2020. Contact Phil Westerman for an Endowment Fund Request form (Email: westerma@ncsu.edu).
- 2021 BUDGET CAMPAIGN UPDATE – For 2021 our pledge budget goal is \$419,506.00. As of this past Sunday (11-22-20) we have received 45 pledges (out of a potential 100 pledges) in the amount of \$207,179.00. This represents 49.39% of the proposed pledge budget. Last year, as of the third Sunday we had received 69 pledges which totaled \$325,604.00. If you have not received a pledge card, please contact the church office.

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 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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Soon and Very Soon (We Are Going To See the King) CCLI Song #11249

Give Thanks CCLI Song #20285

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We live to share God's love for ALL.