



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

4900 Kaplan Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

December 27, 2020

10:30 AM

1st Sunday after Christmas

GATHERING

Prelude

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

arr. Norman Dello Joio

Tonya Kirk and Elizabeth Davis, piano duet

Welcome

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

Out loud, but muted

God is there. When they present Jesus at the temple,

Out loud, but muted

God is there. When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

Out loud, but muted

God is there. When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to prayer,
Out loud, but muted
God is there. This very morning,
God is here.
In the future we cannot see,
Out loud, but muted
God is there. Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo!

Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

(Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

(Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Passing of Christ's Peace

Because 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.

Share Christ's peace with a kiss, a phone call, or a special message.

THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

- ^{61:10} I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
- ^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

Sight Among the Blind?

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Ascription of Praise

Invitation to Discipleship

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

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us how to pray by saying:

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

Mary Had a Baby

arr. Valh

African American Spiritual, Van-Anthoney Hall

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Sending Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCE JUBILO

Mike Reese, Joe Sturdivant, Beth and Lewis Ware

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Chris is born today!

God Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Chris was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grace: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Regent Square

arr. Elizabeth Davis

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

- 2021 GIVING ENVELOPES – Please email Amy (amy@wbpresbyterian.org) if you would like a box of 2021 giving envelopes. They will be available at the end of the year in the education building outside of Jonathan's office, but will only be prepared for those that convey what they would like and plan to use them. Thank you for helping out with your communication on this!
- 2021 BUDGET CAMPAIGN UPDATE – For 2021 our pledge budget goal is \$419,506.00. As of this past Sunday (12-20-20) we have received 69 pledges (out of a potential 100 pledges) in the amount of \$306,869.00. This represents 75.13% of the proposed pledge budget. Last year, as of the 7th Sunday we had received 84 pledges which totaled \$370,684.00. We are sending out pledge confirmations as pledges are received. Please check this confirmation and let the office know of any discrepancies. If you have pledged and do not receive a confirmation letter, please contact the church.
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.
 - Sympathy extended to friends and family of Dottie DuBose-Blum who passed away December 4.
-

Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;

Bruce T. Grady, Associate Pastor;

Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music, videography and production;

Van-Anthoney Hall, Leader of @ The Table Worship;

All music used by permission.

CCLI Streaming License #20350494

CCLI License #1472181

Facebook for WBPC and @ The Table

<https://www.facebook.com/Western-Boulevard-Presbyterian-Church-136611133054/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheTable-247338122665/>

We live to share God's love for ALL.