



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

A Church of the PC(USA)

4900 Kaplan Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

December 6, 2020

10:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Prelude

Pastorale from Messiah

G. F. Handel

arr. Ivy

Greeting

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

John 3:17; Ps. 46:1-3

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isa. 40:3

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever. God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. God's love endures forever.

Prayer of the Day

Advent Candle Lighting

Barbara and Jack Tierney

Candle Lighting Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Hymn of Praise

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of Kings!

Then cleansed by every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand: our health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Holy God, we confess that we do not
walk in your light.

We hurt and ignore one another.

We neglect the poor and hungry.

We let evil grow among us and
fail to bear good fruit.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Awaken us to your Word,
so that we may be ready
to welcome you with joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Kyrie

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

Assurance of Pardon and New Life

Isaiah 35:1, 10

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

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.

THE WORD

New Revised Standard Version

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-5

40:1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served
her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's
hand double for all her sins.

40:3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

40:4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be
made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places
a plain.

40:5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall
see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Psalm

85:1-2, 8-13

85:1 LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes
of Jacob.

85:2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their
sin. Selah

85:8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak
peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their
hearts.

85:9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

85:10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

85:11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

85:12 The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

85:13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

1:1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1:2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

1:3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

1:4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

1:5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

1:7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

1:8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord,
let us pray for the coming of the Prince of Peace, Christ's realm.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the peace of the church . . .
Bring peace, O God, to all believers;
show us how to honor and serve you
as members of Christ's body.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the peace of the earth . . .
Bring peace, O God, to all nations of your

World; teach us to trade our swords for plowshares and spears
for pruning hooks.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the peace of this community . . .
Bring peace, O God, to our town;
make us attentive to the needs of our
neighbors and protect all who are in danger.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the peace of loved ones . . .
Bring peace, O God, to family and friends;
heal those who are sick, help those who
suffer, and give hope to those who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray God for your peace that
passes understanding and the promise
of your new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is
coming in glory to reign. Amen. Psalm 122:6

THE EUCHARIST

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

Offertory Response *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach

Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Your ways are just and true. Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Now we join our voices in the prayer Jesus taught His disciples:

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

Breaking of the Bread (communion by intinction)

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn

The Father's Rose

arr. Mark Hayes

*Of the Father's Love Begotten
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Sending Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Parting Prayer

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

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

- 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 (11-29-20) we have received 52 pledges (out of a potential 100 pledges) in the amount of \$228,039.00. This represents 54.36% of the proposed pledge budget. Last year, as of the third Sunday we had received 76 pledges which totaled \$339,924.00. 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-Anthony Hall, @The Table Worship;
Jeff Cleveland & John Clapp, Production

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We live to share God's love for ALL.