



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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

www.wbpresbyterian.org

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2021

10:30 AM

GATHERING

Prelude

Meditation

Greeting

Call to Worship (Bold = All)

From the pillar of fire and cloud of smoke, God led the people.

Praise be to God!

Through the voices of the prophet, God proclaimed the way to live.

Praise be to God!

Through the power and witness of Jesus Christ, God offered us new life.

Thanks be to God who has showered us with blessing upon blessing!
AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

Christ whose glory fills the skies;
Christ the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise;
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim your word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today's world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

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 hand wave, a phone call, or a special text message.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon

Confronting the Demonic

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Invitation to Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

WE BELIEVE JESUS when he tells us to go into all nations making disciples. Our churches and our nations are part of an international community whose interests always surpass national boundaries. The most well-known verse in the New Testament starts with “For God so loved the world”. We, in turn, should love and serve the world and all its inhabitants, rather than seek first narrow, nationalistic prerogatives.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT “America first” as a theological heresy for followers of Christ. While we share a patriotic love for our country, we reject xenophobic or ethnic nationalism that places one nation over others as a political goal. We reject domination rather than stewardship of the earth’s resources, toward genuine global development that brings human flourishing for all of God’s children. Serving our own communities is essential, but the global connections between us are undeniable. Global poverty, environmental damage, violent conflict, weapons of mass destruction, and deadly diseases in some places ultimately affect all places, and we need wise political leadership to deal with each of these.

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED for the soul of our nation, but also for our churches and the integrity of our faith. The present crisis calls us to go deeper—deeper into our relationship to God; deeper into our relationships with each other, especially across racial, ethnic, and national lines; deeper into our relationships with the most vulnerable, who are at greatest risk.

The church is always subject to temptations to power, to cultural conformity, and to racial, class, and gender divides, as Galatians 3:28 teaches us. But our answer is to be “in Christ,” and to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable, and perfect.”

In Jesus’ name,
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

Call for Offering

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings

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

Offertory Response

Healer of Our Every Ill

arr. Elizabeth Davis

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story; this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story; this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (*Refrain*)

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (*Refrain*)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation

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.

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

- Pray for Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church and all churches. Pray for our members and friends, the Session, deacons, teachers and church leaders. Pray prayers of thanksgiving for our nation during our time of transition and pray for peace in the world.
 - Pray for Elizabeth Davis, her father and her family
 - For Becky Burmester's brother-in-law, Tony, with cancer.
 - Prayers of thanksgiving for friendships which endure, giving us comfort.
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Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;
Bruce T. Grady, Associate Pastor;
Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music;
Van-Anthony Hall, @The Table music director;
Anna Raab, videography and production

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Affirmation of Faith was adapted from “Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis”

<https://www.holmanumc.com/2018/05/23/reclaiming-jesus-a-confession-of-faith-in-a-time-of-crisis/>

We live to share God's love for ALL.