



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

4900 Kaplan Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

10:30 AM

GATHERING

Prelude

Meditation on FINLANDIA

arr. Elizabeth Davis

Greeting

Call to Worship (Bold = Unison)

“Walk before me, and be blameless,” said God to Abram,
“And I shall make my covenant between me and you.”

Quite openly, we’ve measured that distance.

Quite openly, we’ve stayed away.

Quite openly, we’ve distanced ourselves.

Quite openly, we didn’t want to be closer.

Quite openly, we are not blameless.

Quite openly, we are here.

**We are here to open ourselves to our in-between
God.**

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
A land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow; and oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

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 for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to

him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

New Testament

Romans 4:13–25

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) — the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Sermon

It Depends on Faith

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Ascription of Praise

Invitation to Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

WE BELIEVE how we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner is how we treat Christ himself. (Matthew 25: 31-46) “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” God calls us to protect and seek justice for those who are poor and vulnerable, and our treatment of people who are “oppressed,” “strangers,” “outsiders,” or otherwise considered “marginal” is a test of our relationship to God, who made us all equal in divine dignity and love. Our proclamation of the lordship of Jesus Christ is at stake in our solidarity with the most vulnerable. If our gospel is not “good news to the poor,” it is not the gospel of Jesus Christ (Luke 4:18).

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the language and policies of political leaders who would debase and abandon the most vulnerable children of God. We strongly deplore the growing attacks on immigrants and refugees, who are being made into cultural and political targets, and we need to remind our churches that God makes the treatment of the “strangers” among us a test of faith (Leviticus 19:33-34). We won’t accept the neglect of the well-being of low-income families and children, and we will resist repeated attempts to deny health care to those who most need it. We confess our growing national sin of putting the rich over the poor. We reject the immoral logic of cutting services and programs for the poor while cutting taxes for the rich. Budgets are moral documents. We commit ourselves to opposing and reversing those policies and finding solutions that reflect the wisdom of people from different political parties and philosophies to seek the common good. Protecting the poor is a central commitment of Christian discipleship, to which 2,000 verses in the Bible attest.

The best response to our political, material, cultural, racial, or national idolatries is the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). Jesus summarizes the Greatest Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, and your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:38). As to loving our neighbors, we would add “no exceptions.”

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God.
Wash us through and through,

And cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge.
Purge us from our sin,

And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.
Make them hear of joy and gladness,

that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely.
Give them the joy of your saving help,

and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this season of Lent we pray for those who prepare for baptism, and we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

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.

Offering

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

Offertory Response

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Prayer of Dedication

In-between God,
Bless these gifts with your love so that we might share them quite
openly with all who need your change. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn of Sending

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. (*refrain*)

When he shall come with trumpet sound
O may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. (*refrain*)

Charge and Benediction

*Due to the solemn, reflective season of Lent, there will be no postlude. We
conclude the worship in silence and reflection.*

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

- Prayers of thanks for those who have been able to receive a COVID-19 vaccination
- 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
- Prayers of thanksgiving for friendships which endure, giving us comfort.

Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;

Bruce T. Grady, Associate Pastor;

Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music;

Van-Anthoney Hall, @The Table Director of Music;

Anna Raab, videography and production

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.

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/>

Prayers of the People

<http://www.rickmorley.com/archives/1431>