



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

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

www.wbpresbyterian.org

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
Justice and Advocacy Sunday
March 21, 2021
10:30 AM**

GATHERING

Prelude

Give Me Jesus

arr. Elizabeth Davis

Welcome

Minute for Mission

Joe Sturdivant

(See information at the end of the bulletin for links to further information)

Call to Worship (Bold = Unison)

People of God—listen to the trumpet's call!

We come from near and far to kneel before the Holy One.

Children of God—listen to the voice of your Creator!

We return to God with open hearts and minds ready to be transformed.

Beloved of God—listen to the good news!

The Lord is merciful and kind, full of faithful love and ready to forgive.

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

ROCKINGHAM

Take up your cross, the Savior said,
If you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart,
And humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
And calmly every danger brave:
It guides you to abundant life
And leads to victory o'er the grave.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you in darkness, knowing you light. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the suffering and pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior, hear our silent confessions.

Kyrie

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Passing of Christ's Peace

Children's Message

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31:31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

31:32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

31:34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm

Psalm 119:9-16

9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

10 I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

12 Praise be to you, Lord;
teach me your decrees.

13 With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.

14 I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.

15 I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.

16 I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word

Gospel

John 12:20-33

12:20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

12:21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

12:22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

12:23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

12:24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

12:25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

12:26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

12:27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--' Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

12:28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

12:29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

12:30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

12:33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon

Growth of a Seed

Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Barker

Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was

crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory to our triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit of life. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, and death to eternal life; through Christ our Lord who taught us how to pray with this example:

**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

Beneath the Cross

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Hymn of Sending

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth
Saying, "Christian, follow me."
Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love me more."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all.

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.
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Worship Leaders:

Jonathan Barker, Interim Pastor;
Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music; videography and production;
Joe Sturdivant, worship assistant

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“Beneath the Cross”

CCLI Song # 4610917

Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty

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Minute for Mission Information

Advocacy and social justice are cornerstones of the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Both are woven throughout our work in the U.S. and abroad. In the U.S., we advocate for social justice through the [Office of Public Witness](#), which is the public policy information and advocacy office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We participate in direct advocacy with members of Congress and the administration through in-person meetings, letters and phone calls. And, we encourage Presbyterians to call for action by Congress and the administration on matters of conscience and faith, as well as advocate for the less fortunate. We work for [environmental justice](#), and work to help [feed the hungry](#) both here and abroad. We work to provide health solutions to those who need assistance in the U.S. and abroad. We work for fair trade, and fair food, and against the scourge of [human trafficking](#). Our [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#) promotes peace and justice around the world. In times of disaster, [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) steps in to help with recovery and long-term needs. [Presbyterian Women](#) works on a number of justice and peace issues that particularly affect women, children and families. [Presbyterian Self-](#)

[Development of People](#) provides grants to those living in poverty to help improve their lives. Our [Office of Faith-Based Investing and Corporate Engagement](#) strives to advocate in the corporate arena based on principles of faith and discipleship. We do these ministries following our Lord Jesus, advocate for justice to the world.

We live to share God's love for ALL.