



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church

4900 Kaplan Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

919-851-4713

www.wbpresbyterian.org

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

10:30 AM

GATHERING

Prelude

Prelude in C Major, BWV 846

J. S. Bach

Greeting

Call to Worship (Bold = Unison)

Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice
in the God who makes us free.

**We gather, recognizing that not all human beings
have known this freedom.**

The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt;
in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.

**Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery,
our destiny in Christ is liberty.**

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (*refrain*)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. (*refrain*)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. (*refrain*)

Call to Confession

In this season of Lent we reflect on those things
that lead us away from the life we desire.
We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others
who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.
And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to holy
love.

Amen

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
Even as we praise you, we are aware of our failures as your disciples.
We take your love and acceptance of us for granted.
We are often careless with our relationships,
more focused on ourselves than on you or those around us.
We spend our days distracted by the news,
rather than seeking your light and truth.
Forgive us.
Awaken our spirit of commitment and compassion.
Give us a new vision of your purposes and our place within them,
so we may serve you more faithfully, day by day. Amen.**

Kyrie

Assurance of Pardon and New Life

Passing of Christ's Peace

THE WORD

New Revised Standard Version

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 20:1-17

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹For six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Sermon

The Message of the Cross

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Ascription of Praise

Invitation to Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, the compassionate Creator;
who gives us steadfast love, and shares with us our joy,
Our God sustains us in our weakness, and
empowers us with His strength.**

We trust in the Lord.

We follow Jesus Christ, God’s Son.

**His death is our victory, His resurrection is our hope;
in Him the Word became flesh; in Him we find forgiveness,
renewal from failure, reconciliation from brokenness,
and release from despair.**

We are saved through Him.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God’s presence in the world.

**That same Spirit calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate love, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.**

We are empowered through Him.

We are disciples, pilgrim people.

**We joyfully covenant to walk together in love.
To live in fellowship, in life, in death, in life beyond death.
God is with us! We are not alone! Thanks be to God!**

Prayers of the People

Offering

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

Offertory Response

A New Commandment

David Blackburn

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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
You brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.
When your people forsook your covenant,

your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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 of the People (communion by intinction)

Communion Hymn

Remembrance

Matt Maher/Matt Redmond

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

Hymn of Sending

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBURN

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Parting Prayer

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:

Bruce T. Grady, Associate Pastor;

Elizabeth Davis, Director of Music, videography and production;

Robert Owens, worship assistant

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We live to share God's love for ALL.

“Remembrance”

CCLI Song # 5484616

Matt Maher | Matt Redman

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