



*“He gives power to the weak,
and to those who have no might
He increases strength.”
- Isaiah 40:29*

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 149:1-2

Leader: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, *And* His praise in the assembly of saints.

All: Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

*Gloria Patri**

GLORIA PATRI (MEINKE)

Irreg. Charles Meineke, 1844

“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, amen.”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

*Psalm of Praise**

TUNE: EIN' FESTE BURG 88.88.66.668

“Psalm 46”

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

God is our refuge and our strength, A present help in our distress.
We will not therefore be afraid Tho' all the earth should be removed,
Tho' mountains great be hurled Into the ocean's depths,
Tho' seas may roar and foam And billows shake the shore, Tho' mountains tremble at their power.

A river brings refreshing streams To cheer the city of our God,
The Most High's holy dwelling place. God is in her; she won't be moved;
At dawn will God help her. The heathen rage; realms quake;
He lifts His voice; earth melts. The LORD of hosts with us! Our fortress strong is Jacob's God.

O come, see what the LORD has done: He desolations brought on earth;
On earth He puts an end to wars, Breaks bow and spear, and char-iots burns.
Be still! Know I am God. Exalted o'er all men,
Exalted o'er all earth. The LORD of hosts with us! Our fortress strong is Jacob's God.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

All: *We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his father before all worlds, God of God, Light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and life in the world to come. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalms 39:4-8

All: *"LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them. And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions; Do not make me the reproach of the foolish." Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.*

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:23

Leader: Hear the good news! "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

***We ask that for the time being you send your tithe checks by mail to our treasurer*

Psalms 100

TUNE: OLD 100TH LM

Based on William Kethe and Scottish Psalter, 1564

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth; His praise forth tell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the LORD is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk; He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise; Within His courts your thanks proclaim;
With grateful hearts your voices raise To bless and magnify His name.

Because the LORD our God is good, His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

PASTORAL PRAYER

All: *"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."*

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

Psalm 103:1-14

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

All: *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:*

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

All: *Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,*

Leader: Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: *The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.*

Leader: He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

All: *The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

Leader: He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

All: *He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.*

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; - cont.

All: *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Leader: As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

All: For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 22:22-40

Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. ²⁴Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. ²⁵And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. ²⁶Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" ²⁹And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" ³⁰So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No." ³¹Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. ³²And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. ³³"The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." ³⁴And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." ³⁵Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. ³⁶Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. ³⁷Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" ³⁸And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak." ³⁹So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth. ⁴⁰Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent some to Balaam and to the princes who were with him. ⁴¹So it was the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 2:1-22

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. ¹¹Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- ¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, ² in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

Tim and Lynn Dobi

Hymn of Preparation*

TUNE: ST, ANNE C.M.

"Our God Our Help in Ages Past"

From Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719.

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home;
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood, 6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 with all their lives and cares, bears all its sons away;
 are carried downward by your flood, they fly forgotten, as a dream
 and lost in foll'wing years. dies at the op'ning day.

7. Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

SERMON

Isaiah 40:28-31

"Words For the Weary"

Pastor Marc Miller

- 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD,
 The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His
 understanding is unsearchable.
- 29 He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases
 strength.
- 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

- ³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hymn of Preparation

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

"Behold the Lamb"

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Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ Torn for you eat and remember
 The wounds that heal the death that brings us life Paid the price to make us one
 So we share in this Bread of Life And we drink of His sacrifice
 As a sign of our bonds of love Around the table of the King

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin shed for you drink and remember
 He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God
 So we share in this Bread of Life And we drink of His sacrifice
 As a sign of our bonds of grace Around the table of the King

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond and to remember
 Our call to follow in the steps of Christ As His body here on earth
 As we share in His suffering we proclaim Christ will come again
 And we'll join in the feast of heaven Around the table of the King

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

PASSING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hymn of Response*

TUNE: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10.REF

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with harmonization in the other parts. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with three verses. The first system covers the first two verses, and the second system covers the third verse and the concluding phrase. Chord symbols are provided above the staff: G, A7, Dsus, D, G, D, A7, D, E, B7, E7, A, A7, D.

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright

Em D Gmaj⁷ Em⁷ Bdim D A⁷ D

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

REFRAIN
 A D B⁷ Em A⁷

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

D Bdim A E⁷ A A⁷ D Em D

morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

G Bdim D A⁷ D⁷

vid - ed— Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

BENEDICTION*

* --Please stand if able

CCLI # 174248

Prayer Requests

- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Williams Family
- Pray for our covenant children
- Pray for our elders
- Pray for those dealing with physical ailments
- Pray for our Nation's leaders
- Pray for God's all sufficient grace to be known in all our lives

Announcements

- We will be having a prayer meeting over Zoom on Wednesday evenings starting at 8:30 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.
- The next men's fellowship breakfast will be on Saturday, January 9, at 8 a.m., at the IHOP on west 12th street. If you need more information, please contact Pastor Miller.
- We praise God for his faithfulness to us in providing us with a place of our own to worship and the ability to pay it off!

Who Should take Communion?

The question of who is eligible to receive communion is one of vital importance. In order to draw our minds towards examining ourselves in accordance with the Apostle Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth, the Session of West Erie Presbyterian Church in America encourages all in attendance today to consider the following questions:

- Do you believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for your sins and rose again bodily from the dead?
- Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for your salvation?
- Have you been baptized?
- Are you a communicant member in good standing of a Bible-believing, gospel proclaiming church?
- Are you pursuing a life of obedience by forsaking sin and striving, by grace and the help of the Holy Spirit, to glorify God with your entire life?

If you can answer "Yes" to each of these questions, then the Session of West Erie Presbyterian Church in America welcomes and invites you to partake of the Lord's Supper with us today.

If however, you cannot answer "Yes" to each of these questions – or if you are not sure – then we request that you refrain from partaking at this time. We encourage you to take this time to consider your own personal need for Christ, His abundant provision for the salvation of sinners, as well of the biblical requirement to join a local body of believers in humble submission to Christ's provision of elders and overseers. After the service, please come speak with a member of the Session to discuss the steps necessary to enable you to openly enjoy Communion with Christ and his people through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME!

If you are visiting our church today we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. There are a few things that we would like you to know about West Erie Presbyterian Church.

- **We are Historically Reformed.**
 - This means that we believe in the inspired and inerrant Word of God.
 - This means we believe in the absolute sovereignty of God.
 - This means we hold to a covenantal framework of Scripture.
 - This means that we believe that salvation is a free gift of God.
- **We are Community Oriented.**
 - We seek to share the only hope that this world has: that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - We seek to be a church that is salt and light to the community around us and fulfill the Great Commission.
- **We are Confessional.**
 - As a Christian church, ancient statements such as the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed help us to confess certain basic and essential truths of the Christian faith.
 - As a Presbyterian church, our confessional or doctrinal standards consist of the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms (copies of these documents are available from the church).
 - All of these statements are under the authority of Scripture.

We thank you for visiting today! If you have any questions regarding our style of worship please feel free to ask the pastor or one of our elders. We would be happy to talk with you. Also, we would ask you to stay after and enjoy the fellowship of our Christian community. West Erie Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).

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