



*“Now on the first day of the week
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early,
while it was still dark, and saw that the
stone had been taken away
from the tomb.”
-John 20:1*

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 24:7-10

Leader: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

All: *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.*

Leader: Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

All: *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.*

*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*

*Hymn of Praise**

TUNE: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

“Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

Jack W. Hayford, 1986.

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is primarily in the soprano part. The lyrics are:

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voic-es, Christ has con- quered death and hell.
2. See the tomb where death had laid him, emp- ty now, its mouth de- clares:
3. Hear the earth pro - test and trem - ble, see the stone re - moved with pow'r;
4. Doubt may lift its head to mur- mur, scoff- ers mock and sin- ners jeer;
5. We ac- claim your life, O Je - sus, now we sing your vic - to - ry;

The score includes a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one flat and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass line providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sing as all the earth re-joic-es; res-ur-rec-tion an-thems swell.
 "Death and I could not con-tain him, for the throne of life he shares."
 • all hell's min-ions may as-sem-ble, but can-not with-stand his hour.
 but the truth pro-claims a won-der thought-ful hearts re-ceive with cheer.
 sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your con-quest keeps us free.

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the ris-en King!
 Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the ris-en King!
 • He has con-quired, he has con-quired, Christ the Lord, the ris-en King!
 He is ris-en, he is ris-en, now re-ceive the ris-en King!
 Stand in tri-umph, stand in tri-umph, wor-ship Christ, the ris-en King!

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. - cont.

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

Psalm 5:1-5, 7

All: "Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up. For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple." Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Micah 7:18

Leader: Hear the good news! "Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights *in* mercy."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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

Offertory Psalm

TUNE: DUNDEE CM

"Psalm 121"

Based on Scottish Psalter, 1615

I to the hills will lift my eyes. From whence shall come my aid?
My safety cometh from the LORD Who heav'n and earth has made.

Thy foot He'll not let slide, nor will He slumber that thee keeps.
Lo, He that keepeth Is-ra-el, He slumbers not nor sleeps.

The LORD thee keeps; the LORD thy shade On thy right hand doth stay;
The moon by night thee shall not smite, Nor yet the sun by day.

The LORD shall keep thee from all ill; He shall preserve thy soul.
The LORD as thou shalt go and come Forever keeps thee whole.

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 16:1-11

Leader: Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

All: O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You."

Leader: As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

All: Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips.

Leader: O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.

All: The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.

Leader: I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

All: I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Leader: Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

All: For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Leader: You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 22:1-21

Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho. ²Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. ³And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. ⁴So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. ⁵Then he sent

messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me!"⁶ "Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."⁷ So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak.⁸ And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.⁹ Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"¹⁰ So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, '¹¹Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.' "¹² And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."¹³ So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you."¹⁴ And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."¹⁵ Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they.¹⁶ And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; ¹⁷for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.' "¹⁸ Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more."¹⁹ Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me."²⁰ And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you -- that you shall do."²¹ So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:1-23

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him. ¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³In Him you also trusted, after you

heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. ¹⁵Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²²And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

*Psalm of Preparation**

TUNE: LEOMINSTER SMD

"Psalm 16"

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

Preserve me, O my God; I put my trust in You.
LORD, I confess, You are my Lord; No good have I but You.
The godly ones on earth, Those holy in Your sight,
The noble and majestic ones, Fill me with great delight.

Their sorrows multiply Who after idols seek.
To them I'll no blood off' rings make; Their names I'll never speak.
The LORD the portion is Of my inheritance.
He fills my cup, my lot prepares, Secures to me His grants.

The lines that fell to me Enclose a pleasant site.
The heritage that I received To me is a delight.
I bless the LORD Who guides With counsel that is right.
My heart within me He directs To teach me in the night.

I always keep the LORD Before me, Him to see.
Because He is at my right hand I never moved shall be.
Thus gladness fills my soul; My joy must be expressed
With my whole being, for my flesh Securely finds its rest.

My soul You will not leave In death's dark pit to be.
Corruption You will not permit Your Holy One to see.
The path of life You'll show; Of joy You hold great store.
Before Your face, at Your right hand, Are pleasures evermore.

SERMON

John 20:1-18

“What a Morning!”

Pastor Marc Miller

- 1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
- 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”
- 3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.
- 4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.
- 5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.
- 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,
- 7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.
- 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.
- 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.
- 10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.
- 11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.
- 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.
- 13 Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”
- 14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.
- 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”
- 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).
- 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”
- 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

Hymn of Response*

TUNE: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7 al.

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Charles Wesley, 1739.

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!

sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - le - lu - ia!

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 made like him, like him we rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!

sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! *Alleluia!*
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; *Alleluia!*
thee we greet triumphant now; *Alleluia!*
hail, the Resurrection, thou! *Alleluia!*

BENEDICTION*

* --Please stand if able
CCLI # 174248

Prayer Requests

- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Knight 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!
- We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper next week. Please take some time this week to prepare your hearts accordingly through prayer and the reading of Scripture.

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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