

WEST ERIE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

*“Then Isaac called Jacob  
and blessed him...”*

*– Genesis 28:1a*

WORSHIP LEADERS:

*PASTOR MARC MILLER, MATT FAIR, R.E.*

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*Psalm 134:1-3*

Leader: Behold, bless the LORD, All *you* servants of the LORD, Who by night stand in the house of the LORD!

**All:** *Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.*

Leader: The LORD who made heaven and earth Bless you from Zion!

## *Gloria Patri\**

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

Irreg. H.W. Greatorex, 1851

“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: WEBB 76.76.D

### *“Psalm 65:1-5”*

The Book of Psalms, 1871 and the Psalter, 1912

Praise waits for Thee in Zion! To Thee vows paid shall be.  
O God, of prayer the hearer, All flesh shall come to Thee.  
Iniquities are daily Prevailing over me,  
But all of our transgressions Are covered o'er by Thee.

How blessed the man Thou chooseth And bringest near to Thee,  
That in Thy courts forever His dwelling place may be.  
We shall within Thy temple Be wholly satisfied  
And filled with all the goodness Thy sacred courts provide.

O God of our salvation, Thou in Thy righteousness  
With awesome deeds and wonders Thine answer wilt express,  
O Thou in Whom confiding All ends of earth agree,  
And people who are sailing Upon the farthest sea.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH\*

*Apostle's Creed*

**All:** *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Psalm 130:1-8*

**All:** *"Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD; Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning -- Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities." Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.*

## SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Hebrews 7:23-25*

Leader: Hear the good news! Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. <sup>24</sup>But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup>Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

### ***Psalm 130***

TUNE: MARTYRDOM CM

'Alas! and Did my Savior Bleed'

LORD, from the depths to Thee I cried. My Lord, give ear to me.

O hear my voice and hearken to My supplicating plea.

LORD, who shall stand if Thou, my Lord, Shouldst mark iniquity?

But yet with Thee forgiveness is, That men may rev'ence Thee. – cont.

I wait, my soul awaits the LORD; My hope is in His word.  
More than the watchmen wait for morn My soul waits for my Lord.

O Is-ra-el, hope in the LORD; The LORD saves graciously.  
And He shall Is-ra-el redeem From all iniquity

### 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 37:1-11*

Leader: Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

*All: For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.*

Leader: Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

*All: Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

Leader: Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

*All: He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.*

Leader: Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

*All: Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret -- it only causes harm.*

Leader: For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.

*All: For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more.*

Leader: But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace

### GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 3:1-17*

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His

paths straight.’ “<sup>4</sup>And John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup>and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>”Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>”and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup>”And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>”I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>”His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. <sup>16</sup>When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup>And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Acts 11:1-18*

Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, <sup>3</sup>saying, “You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!” <sup>4</sup>But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. <sup>6</sup>”When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>”And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>”But I said, ‘Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>”But the voice answered me again from heaven, ‘What God has cleansed you must not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>”Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>”At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>”Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>”And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, ‘Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, <sup>14</sup>’who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>”And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>”Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>”If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who

was I that I could withstand God?"<sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

### Hymn of Preparation\*

TUNE: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.

### "O Father, You Are Sovereign"

Margaret Clarkson, 1982

1. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all the worlds you made;  
2. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign in all af - fairs of man;  
3. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign, the Lord of hu - man pain,  
4. O Fa - ther, you are sov - ereign! We see you dim - ly now,

your might - y word was spo - ken and light and life o - beyed.  
no pow'rs of death or dark - ness can thwart your per - fect plan.  
trans - mut - ing earth - ly sor - rows to gold of heav'n - ly gain.  
but soon be - fore your tri - umph earth's ev - ery knee shall bow.

Your voice com - mands the sea - sons and bounds the o - cean's shore,  
All chance and change tran - scend - ing, su - preme in time and space,  
All e - vil o - ver - rul - ing, as none but Con - qu'ror could,  
With this glad hope be - fore us our faith springs up a - new:

sets stars with - in their cours - es and stills the tem - pest's roar.  
 you hold your trust - ing chil - dren se - cure in your em - brace.  
 your love pur - sues its pur - pose—our souls' e - ter - nal good.  
 our sov - ereign Lord and Sav - ior, we trust and wor - ship you!

## SERMON

**Genesis 28:1-9**

***“God’s Way and Man’s Way”***

***Pastor Marc Miller***

- 1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him:  
“You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.
- 2 “Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.
- 3 “May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you,  
That you may be an assembly of peoples;
- 4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you,  
That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham.”
- 5 So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.
- 6 Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, *and that* as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,”
- 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.
- 8 Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.
- 9 So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

### Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

### *Hymn of Response\**

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

### *“In Christ Alone”*

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“In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all – Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid – Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death – This is the pow’r of Christ in me;  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home – Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.”

## **BENEDICTION\***

\* --Please stand if able  
CCLI # 174248

## **Prayer requests**

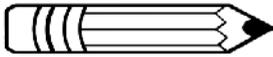
- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Garrett Family
- Pray for our country's leaders
- Pray for our covenant children
- Pray for our Elders and Deacons.
- Pray our Sunday School Teachers and Students
- Please pray for the for a church plant ongoing in Cranberry Township, PA.

## **Announcements**

- Prayer meeting: Wednesday Evenings at 8:30 p.m. over Zoom. All are encouraged to attend. Please see Pastor Miller if you would like to attend and are not already on the email list.
- Men's Bible Study: Saturday, February 4, at 8 a.m. – In person & ZOOM.
- Sunday School Starts at 10 a.m. We have a class for Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and an adult class. The Adults are studying the Westminster Shorter Catechism.
- Please mark your calendars for a family movie night to be held at church on Friday, January 27, at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

# Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

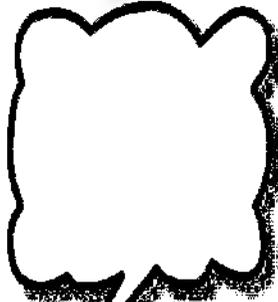
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.



Who is speaking?



Words you heard but don't know...

What is the main passage we are reading today??

Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

What are we learning about God from this passage?

Write or draw something you heard in the sermon

Questions?

The most important thing you learned was:

How does today's message apply to your life?



Favorite song today was:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 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.**
  - We believe in the inspired and inerrant Word of God.
  - We believe in the absolute sovereignty of God.
  - We hold to a covenantal framework of Scripture.
  - 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 Apos 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](http://www.pcanet.org)).

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