



WEST ERIE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

“THEN PHILIP OPENED HIS MOUTH, AND
BEGINNING AT THIS SCRIPTURE, PREACHED
JESUS TO HIM.”

-ACTS 8:35

WORSHIP LEADERS:

PASTOR MARC MILLER, RE TIM WHITBECK

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 115:1

Leader: Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy,
Because of Your truth.

*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: HENDON 77.77

“Psalm 113”

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Praise Jehovah; praise the LORD;
Ye His servants, praise accord;
Bless-ed be Jehovah’s name;
Evermore His praise proclaim.
Evermore His praise proclaim.

From the dawn to setting sun,
Praise the LORD, the Mighty One.
O’er all nations He is high;
Yea, His glory crowns the sky.
Yea, His glory crowns the sky.

Who is like the LORD our God?
High in heav’n is His abode,
Who Himself doth humble low
Things in heav’n and earth to know.
Things in heav’n and earth to know.

He the lowly makes to rise
From the dust in which he lies,
That exalted he may stand
With the princes of the land.
With the princes of the land.

He the childless woman takes
And a joyful mother makes;
Keeping house she finds reward.
Praise Jehovah; praise the LORD
Praise Jehovah; praise the LORD

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

All: *Almighty God, I am a sinner. Your Word and my heart confirm that to me. I have done things You have forbidden and left undone things You have commanded. I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I have not loved my neighbor as myself. As judge of the whole earth You would be just to condemn me. Yet in Your love You sent Christ to bear the guilt of my sin and suffer my punishment. To Him now I flee; forgive me for His sake, and by Your Spirit help me to live in the light of His sacrifice, a life worthy of Your name. Judge me not according to my work but according to Your mercy in Jesus Christ. For in Him I hope and in Him I come before You this day. Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.*

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Proverbs 28:13

Leader: Hear the good news! "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

"Psalm 11"

"This is My Father's World"

My trust is in the LORD; How can you say to me,
"Now like a bird from peril haste And to your mountain flee!
The wicked bend the bow With arrow fixed for flight,
And stealthily in darkness go The true in heart to smite.

"Foundations are destroyed! What can the righteous try?"
The LORD is in His holy place; The LORD'S throne is on high.
His eyes will surely see, His eyelids try men's sons.
The LORD tries just and wicked men; His soul hates cruel ones.

Upon all wicked men He'll rain entangling snares.
Brimstone and fire and burning wind He for their cup prepares.
For righteous is the LORD, And He loves righteousness;
And everyone who upright is Will see His gracious face.

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 87:1-7

Leader: His foundation *is* in the holy mountains.

All: The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Leader: Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! Selah

All: "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: 'This one was born there.' "

Leader: And of Zion it will be said, "This *one* and that *one* were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her."

All: The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: "This one was born there." Selah

Leader: Both the singers and the players on instruments *say*, "All my springs *are* in you."

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 6:1-14

That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. ²And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ³Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." ⁴So the king said, "Who *is* in the court?" Now Haman had *just* entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. ⁵The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." ⁶So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" ⁷And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, ⁸let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'" ¹⁰Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken." ¹¹So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" ¹²Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. ¹³When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him." ¹⁴While they *were* still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

GOSPEL READING

John 17:1-26

"Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ²as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. ⁶" I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷"Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸"For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹"I pray

for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰"And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹²"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³"But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹"And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Hymn of Preparation*

TUNE: HE LEADETH ME L.M.D.

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862; alt.

1. He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O words with heav'n - ly
 2. Some- times 'mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some - times where E - den's
 3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur
 4. And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the

com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still
 bow - ers bloom, by wa - ters calm, o'er trou - bled sea, still
 nor re - pine; con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since
 vic - t'ry's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

C Am C/G G C Γ REFRAIN G⁷ C F C

'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
'tis his hand that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me;
'tis my God that lead - eth me.
God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

F C Am C/G G C G⁷

by his own hand he lead - eth me: his faith - ful fol - l'wer

C F C F C Am C/G G⁷ C Γ

I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

SERMON

Acts 8:26-40

"Philip and the Ethiopian"

Pastor Marc Miller

- 26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.
- 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,
- 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.
- 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."
- 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
- 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.
- 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer *is* silent, So He opened not His mouth.

- 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."
- 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"
- 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.
- 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?"
- 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
- 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.
- 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.
- 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Hymn of Preparation**

TUNE: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153.

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est Friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 for this, thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 look on me with thy fa - vor, vouch - safe to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

PASSING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

***THE WAFERS ARE NUT AND GLUTEN FREE.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Hymn of Response**

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Bowell

"His Mercy is More"

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

REFRAIN

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

Verse 3

What riches of kindness Christ lavished on us,
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost!
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

BENEDICTION*

Prayer requests

- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Nachtergaele Family
- Pray for our country's leaders and those who serve us.
- Pray for our elders and deacons.
- Pray for our covenant children.
- Pray for the purchase of a new church property

Announcements

- Youth Group for Grades 6-12: Tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. Please Invite your friends!
- Youth Group Reformation Party: Saturday October 31 from 6-9 p.m. at Church. We will be having pizza and snacks and watching a movie about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

- Men's Bible Study: Saturday, November 7, at 8 am. Please read Lesson 8 in the "Let's Study Romans" book.
- Sunday School: We have classes for pre-k through adults. The Adults will be studying the creeds and confessions of the church.
- Ascension Presbytery Women's Conference: "Gospel Transformation: In the Hands of the Potter." Saturday, October 24 at Hillcrest PCA in Volant from 9am to 3pm. There is a QR code to sign-up for the event on the back bulletin board.
- Fellowship Time: Sunday, October 19 following the morning worship service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!
- Reformation Day Evening Service: Sunday, November 1 at 6 p.m. at Faith Reformed Church on Saltsman Road. Pastor Matthew Everhard will be preaching. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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 communicate 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 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.**
 - 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 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).

New Here?



Scan Me

Phone: (814) 504-6513

Address: 621 West 2nd Street Erie PA, 16507

E-mail: Pastor@wepca.org

www.wepca.org

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