



# WEST ERIE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

"BUT IF IT IS OF GOD, YOU CANNOT  
OVERTHROW IT - LEST YOU EVEN BE FOUND  
TO FIGHT AGAINST GOD.""

-ACTS 5:39

WORSHIP LEADERS:  
PASTOR MARC MILLER, RE MATT FAIR

THE LORD'S WORSHIP SERVICE  
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*Psalm 47:1-2*

Leader: Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

All: *For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.*

## *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: RIPLEY 8.7.8.7.D.

## *“Psalm 146”*

The Psalter, 1912.

The musical score is written in 3/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system includes four lines of lyrics, and the second system includes three lines of lyrics. Chord markings (D, G, D, Em7, A7, D) are placed above the vocal lines. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;  
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;  
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,  
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;

I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.  
he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.  
rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.  
I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.

Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;  
 Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;  
 Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,  
 O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;

he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.  
 he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.  
 helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.  
 un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

### CONFESSION OF FAITH\*

Westminster Larger Catechism Q&A 99

Leader: *What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the ten commandments?*

All: *For the right understanding of the ten commandments, these rules are to be observed:*

1. *That the law is perfect, and bindeth everyone to full conformity in the whole man unto the righteousness thereof, and unto entire obedience forever, so as to require the utmost perfection of every duty, and to forbid the least degree of every sin.*
2. *That it is spiritual, and so reacheth the understanding, will, affections, and all other powers of the soul; as well as words, works, and gestures.*
3. *That one and the same thing, in divers respects, is required or forbidden in several commandments.*
4. *That as, where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden; and, where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded; so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included; and where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included.*
5. *That what God forbids, is at no time to be done; what he commands, is always our duty; and yet every particular duty is not to be done at all times.*
6. *That under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded together with all the causes, means, occasions and appearances thereof, and provocations thereunto.*
7. *That what is forbidden or commanded to ourselves, we are bound, according to our places, to endeavor that it may be avoided or performed by others, according to the duty of their places.*
8. *That in what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, to be helpful to them; and to take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

PSALM 6:1-4

*All: "O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD -- how long? Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!" Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.*

## SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Timothy 1:15

Leader: Hear the good news! "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

**"Psalm 31:1-10, 14-16"**

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

In You, LORD, I take refuge; Ashamed let me not be.  
Your righteousness eternal Express by saving me;  
Incline Your ear to hear me; With speed deliver me.  
To me O be a strong rock A fort to rescue me.

You are my rock and fortress; For Your sake lead and guide.  
Free me from nets they've hidden; My stronghold You abide.  
I now commit my spirit Into Your outstretched hand.  
I know You have redeemed me, LORD God of truths that stand.

I hate those serving idols; My trust is in the LORD.  
I'll triumph in Your mercy; For anguish You regard.  
You've known my soul's afflictions, Kept me from hostile hand.  
My feet You have established Where they have room to stand.

O LORD, have mercy on me, For anguish fills my life;  
My eye, my soul, my body Are all consumed with grief.  
My life is drained by sorrow, My years with sighing spent;  
I've lost my strength by sinning; My bones are weak and bent.

When foes conspire against me, My murder meditate,  
In You, O LORD, I'm trusting; "You are my God," I state.  
My times are all in Your hand; Free me from foes who chase.  
Your face shine on Your servant; O save me in Your grace.

## 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 3:1-6*

Leader: LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many *are* they who rise up against me.

**All:** *Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah*

Leader: But You, O LORD, *are* a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

**All:** *I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah*

Leader: I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.

**All:** *I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around.*

Leader: Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.

**All:** *Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Nehemiah 4:1-23*

But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. <sup>2</sup>And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish -- *stones* that are burned?" <sup>3</sup>Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up *on it*, he will break down their stone wall." <sup>4</sup>Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! <sup>5</sup>Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked *You* to anger before the builders. <sup>6</sup>So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work. <sup>7</sup>Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, <sup>8</sup>and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion. <sup>9</sup>Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night. <sup>10</sup>Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and *there is* so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

<sup>11</sup>And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." <sup>12</sup>So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, *they will be upon us.*" <sup>13</sup>Therefore I positioned *men* behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup>And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." <sup>15</sup>And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and *that* God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. <sup>16</sup>So it was, from that time on, *that* half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and *wore* armor; and the leaders *were* behind all the house of Judah. <sup>17</sup>Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. <sup>18</sup>Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet *was* beside me. <sup>19</sup>Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work *is* great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. <sup>20</sup>"Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." <sup>21</sup>So we labored in the work, and half of *the men* held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. <sup>22</sup>At the same time I also said to the people, "Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day." <sup>23</sup>So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, *except* that everyone took them off for washing.

## GOSPEL READING

*John 8:21-35*

"Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." <sup>22</sup>So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come?'" <sup>23</sup>And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup>"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins." <sup>25</sup>Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup>"I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." <sup>27</sup>They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. <sup>29</sup>"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." <sup>30</sup>As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. <sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup>"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* you say, 'You will be made free?'" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to

you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

**Hymn of Preparation\***

TUNE: SHEPHERD 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.

**"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

Hymns for the Young, 1836

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;  
 2. We are thine; do thou be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
 3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare:  
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:  
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bo - soms fill:

bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;  
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;  
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, let us ear - ly turn to thee;  
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, let us ear - ly turn to thee.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

## SERMON

*Acts 5:12-42*

*"Growth and Persecution"*

*Pastor Marc Miller*

- 12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.
- 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.
- 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,
- 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.
- 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.
- 17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,
- 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.
- 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,
- 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."
- 21 And when they heard *that*, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.
- 22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported,
- 23 saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"
- 24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be.
- 25 So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"
- 26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.
- 27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council. And the high priest asked them,
- 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"
- 29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.
- 30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.



# Hymn of Response\*

TUNE: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

# "The Church's One Foundation"

Samuel J. Stone, 1866.

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,  
4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word;  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

5. 'Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

6. Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.

## 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: Sunday June 7, at church from 6-7:30.
- Men's Bible Study: Saturday, June 6 at 8 a.m. Please read chapter 5 in the Romans study book.
- Sunday School: Resumes on Sunday, September 13.
- Church Picnic: Sunday, June 14 starting at 4:30 p.m. at Mckean Park located at 8800 Main st. Mckean PA. The church will provide the main dish. We ask you to bring a dish or two to pass. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church to help us with planning.

# 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](http://www.pcanet.org)).



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