



WEST ERIE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

*“So Judah acknowledged them and said,
‘She has been more righteous than I..’”*

-Genesis 38:26a

WORSHIP LEADERS:
PASTOR MARC MILLER, MATT FAIR R.E.

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 100:1-5

Leader: Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

All: *Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.*

Leader: Know that the LORD, He is God; *It is He who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

All: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

Leader: For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

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*

Hymn of Praise*

Words and Music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

“Creation Sings the Father Song”

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Creation sings the Father’s song; He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow, His breath upon this spinning globe,
He charts the eagle’s flight; Commands the newborn baby’s cry.

CHORUS

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing,
“Hallelujah!” Fill the earth with songs of worship;
Tell the wonders of creation’s King.

Creation gazed upon His face; The ageless One in time’s embrace
Unveiled the Father’s plan Of reconciling God and man.

A second Adam walked the earth, Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free To live with Him eternally.

Creation longs for His return, When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky, All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme: The glories of our God and King! "

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: *O our God! We are often ashamed to lift up our faces before You; for our iniquities are higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached unto the heavens. We were sinful at birth, even from the time our mothers conceived us. We are by nature children of wrath; we have corrupted our way, and turned aside from Your holy laws. You are not in all our thoughts; we have often forgotten You, the God who formed us, and have lived for ourselves, indulging the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. But O our Father, we repent. We grieve over ourselves and turn from our sins, calling on You to forgive us and to renew a clear heart and mind within us, through the merit and mediation of Your sinless Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.*

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 103:8, 10-12

Leader: Hear the good news! The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹²As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Psalm 65:1-5

TUNE: WEBB 76.76.D

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

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 choosest 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

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.”

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

CHAD AND SHAUNA RESSLER

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

Psalm 112:1-10

Leader: Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man *who* fears the LORD, *Who* delights greatly in His commandments.

All: His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.

Leader: Wealth and riches *will be* in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.

All: Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

Leader: A good man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion.

All: Surely he will never be shaken; The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

Leader: He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

All: His heart is established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

Leader: He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.

All: The wicked will see it and be grieved; He will gnash his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked shall perish.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 12:1-21

"At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ²And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" ³But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴"how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵"Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶"Yet I say to you that in this place there is *One* greater than the temple. ⁷"But if you had known what *this* means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸"For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." ⁹Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" -- that they might accuse Him. ¹¹Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out? ¹²"Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other. ¹⁴Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him. ¹⁵But when Jesus knew *it*, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. ¹⁶Yet He warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸"Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; ²¹And in His name Gentiles will trust."

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 20:1-16

After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to *himself*, embraced *them*, and departed to go to Macedonia. ²Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece ³and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as

he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia -- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. ⁵These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. ⁶But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. ⁷Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. ⁹And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." ¹¹Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹²And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted. ¹³Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. ¹⁵We sailed from there, and the next *day* came opposite Chios. The following *day* we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next *day* we came to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

Psalm of Preparation*

TUNE: AURELLIA 76.76.D

"Psalm 101"

"The Church's One Foundation"

Of mercy and of justice, O LORD, I'll sing to Thee.
 In uprightness and wisdom Shall my behavior be.
 O when in lovingkindness Wilt Thou to me come near?
 I'll walk within my dwelling With heart and life sincere.

I will permit no base thing Before my eyes to be.
 I hate unfaithful doing; It shall not cleave to me.
 The man whose heart is froward Shall from my presence go;
 And nothing that is evil Will I consent to know.

I'll cut him off that slanders His neighbor secretly;
 I'll not endure the proud heart Nor eyes that haughty be.
 My eyes are with the faithful That he may dwell with me;
 The man whose walk is upright My minister shall be.

No man of works deceitful Within my house shall dwell;
 Nor in my sight shall tarry A man who lies will tell.
 Each morning with destruction The wicked I'll reward,
 To free from evildoers The city of the LORD

SERMON

- 12 It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite whose name *was* Hirah.
- 13 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name *was* Shua, and he married her and went in to her.
- 14 So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.
- 15 She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan.
- 16 And she conceived yet again and bore a son, and called his name Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him.
- 17 Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name *was* Tamar.
- 18 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him.
- 19 And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."
- 20 But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.
- 21 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.
- 22 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.
- 23 Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.
- 24 And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."
- 25 So she took off her widow's garments, covered *herself* with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which *was* on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.
- 26 When Judah saw her, he thought she *was* a harlot, because she had covered her face.
- 27 Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she *was* his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"
- 28 And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give *me* a pledge till you send *it*?"
- 29 Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that *is* in your hand." Then he gave *them* to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.
- 30 So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood.
- 31 And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive *his* pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her.

- 32 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who *was* openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this *place*."
- 33 So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this *place*."
- 34 Then Judah said, "Let her take *them* for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her."
- 35 And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she *is* with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"
- 36 When she *was* brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I *am* with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these *are* -- *the* signet and cord, and staff."
- 37 So Judah acknowledged *them* and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.
- 38 Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins *were* in her womb.
- 39 And so it was, when she was giving birth, that *the one* put out *his* hand; and the midwife took a scarlet *thread* and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."
- 40 Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? *This* breach *be* upon you!" Therefore his name was called Perez.
- 41 Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet *thread* on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

*Hymn of Response**

TUNE: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10.ref

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Γ D G A' Dsus D 7 G

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

D A7 D E B7 E7 A A7 D

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 -

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: Nachtergale 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.
- Pray for our Church remodel/expansion planning

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, June 3, at 8 a.m. – In person & ZOOM. Please read chapter 3 in the 1st Samuel study book.
- Sunday School Starts at 10 a.m. We have a class for Pre-K to 1st Grade, 2nd to 4th grade, 5th to 8th grade, and an adult class.
- The ladies and girls of the church are invited to a bridal shower for Debbie Fiscus on Sunday, May 21 following the worship service. Please RSVP to Natalie Miller.
- The session would like to form a youth committee to lead and organize middle/high school youth events in the future. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Miller.

- Please mark your calendars for our next church picnic to be held at McKean Park on Sunday, June 4, starting at 4:30 p.m. You can sign up through the church App or on the back bulletin board.

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 Apostle’s 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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