



WEST ERIE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

*“Then Isaac trembled exceedingly,
and said... “I have blessed him –
and indeed he shall be blessed.”*

– Genesis 27:33

WORSHIP LEADERS:

PASTOR MARC MILLER, JONATHAN MOSER, R.E.

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements & Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 59:17

Leader: *To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises;*

All: *For God is my defense, My God of mercy.*

*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**

TUNE: CAROL C.M.D.

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Edmund H. Sears, 1850

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav’n’s all-gracious King”;
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ’ring wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o’er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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 25:4-7, 11

All: *“Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy*

remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD. For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great ." Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1:8-9

Leader: Hear the good news! "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Psalm 141:1-5

TUNE: CANONBURY LM.

'Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak'

O LORD, My God, to Thee I cry; Swift to my aid in mercy fly;
And when to Thee my cries ascend, In pity to my voice attend.

As fragrant incense on the air, So mount to heav'n my early prayer;
And let my hands uplifted be, As evening sacrifice to Thee.

Set, LORD, a watch my mouth before, And of my lips keep Thou the door;
Nor leave my sinful heart to stray Where evil footsteps lead the way.

Let me not of the feast partake Which wicked men delight to make;
Let righteous men in mercy smite, In their reproofs I'll take delight

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 8:1-9

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

All: *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

Leader: When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars,
which You have ordained,

All: What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

Leader: For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him
with glory and honor.

*All: You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all
things under his feet,*

Leader: All sheep and oxen -- Even the beasts of the field, ⁸

All: The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " ⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." ⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. ¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation,

weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." ¹⁹But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." ²¹Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. ²³And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:24-48

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. ²⁸Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹"Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" ³⁰So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, ³¹"and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. ³²'Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' ³³"So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God." ³⁴Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵"But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶"The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ -- He is Lord of all -- ³⁷"that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹"And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰"Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹"not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴²"And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be

baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

*Psalm of Preparation**

TUNE: ARLINGTON C.M.

"Psalm 1"

"This is the Day the Lord Has Made"

O greatly bless-ed is the man Who walketh not astray
In counsel of ungodly men, Nor stands in sinners' way,
Nor sitteth in the scorner's chair, But placeth his delight
Upon GOD'S law, and meditates On His law day and night.
He shall be like a tree that grows Set by the water side,
Which in its season yields its fruit, And green its leaves abide;
And all he does shall prosper well. The wicked are not so,
But are like chaff which by the wind Is driven to and fro.
In judgment, therefore, shall not stand Such as ungodly are,
Nor in th'assembly of the just Shall wicked men appear.
Because the way of godly men Is to Jehovah known,
Whereas the way of wicked men Shall quite be overthrown

SERMON

Genesis 27:30-45

"The Drama Continues..."

Pastor Marc Miller

- ³⁰ Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.
- ³¹ He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."
- ³² And his father Isaac said to him, "Who *are* you?" So he said, "I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau."
- ³³ Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where *is* the one who hunted game and brought *it* to me? I ate all *of it* before you came, and I have blessed him -- *and* indeed he shall be blessed."
- ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me -- me also, O my father!"
- ³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."
- ³⁶ And *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

- 37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"
- 38 And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me -- me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.
- 39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.
- 40 By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."
- 41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."
- 42 And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you *by intending* to kill you.
- 43 "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.
- 44 "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,
- 45 "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

Sermon Notes:

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

Hymn of Response next pg.*

TUNE: AMAZING GRACE C.M.

“Great is Thy Faithfulness “

St. 1-5, John Newton, 1779. St. 6, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790.

BENEDICTION*

* --Please stand if able

CCLI # 174248

Prayer requests

- This week’s WEPCA Missionaries: The Nachtergaele 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, January 7, at 8 a.m. – In person & ZOOM, “Let’s Study Philippians” Wrap Up.
- 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 Adults are studying the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Sunday School will resume next week. **Please note there will be no Sunday School on December 25 and January 1.**

- Our Christmas Eve Service of Scriptures and Carols will be on Saturday Dec 24, at 6:30 p.m.
- 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.

The image shows a musical score for a Christmas Eve service, consisting of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a guitar accompaniment line with chords. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 3/4.

System 1:

Chords: D, G, A', Dsus, D, G

Lyrics:
 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

System 2:

Chords: D, A7, D, E, B7, E7, A, A7, D

Lyrics:
 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

System 3:

Chords: Em, D, Gmaj7, Em7, Bdim, D, A7, D

Lyrics:
 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

Chords: A, D, B7, Em, A7

Lyrics:
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

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...

Write or draw something you heard in the sermon

What is the main passage we are reading today??

Book: _____

Chapter: _____

Verse: _____

What are we learning about God from this passage?

Questions?

How does today's message apply to your life?

The most important thing you learned was:

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).

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