

Weston Presbyterian Church

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Mosaic in the Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (June 2015)

September 16th, 2018
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship (sung 3x): **303**

***Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words, you are holy, Lord.***

Let us worship God!

Hymn: “*Thou whose almighty word*” **291**

Prayer of Approach

Prayer of Confession and **the Lord’s prayer**

**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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (unison):

**Touch our hearts with your word, O God,
and help us to take up our crosses each day.
Open our ears and place your praise on our tongues.
Amen.**

Old Testament Scripture:

Isaiah 50:4-9a (p. 594)

Responsive Psalm 116:1-9, refrain II (red psalter):

Engaging with *THE STORY*

Hymn: “*I sing the almighty power of God*” 333

Epistle and Gospel Readings:

James 3:1-12 (p. 981)

Mark 8:27-38 (p. 820)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: “*This is a story full of love*” 504

Sermon:

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn: “*Take up your cross*” 211

Offering and Offering Response: “*Doxology*” 830
(words by Ruth C. Duck)

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame:
all glory, honour to God’s name.**

Offertory Prayer (unison):

Accept these gifts, O Lord, which we offer
with thanksgiving for your many blessings.
Accept us in your service
as heralds of the good news of your love
and prosper our witness
so that all who hear it may turn to you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
we give you praise. Amen.

Announcements

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: *“Follow me, the Master said”*

645

Call to walk in the Spirit (responsive):

In Christ we know the love of God.
Now we are to love others as Jesus has loved us.
We serve God through our love and service of witness.
Let us be bold, then, in speaking to others
about what God has done in Christ for all the world
and let us love God and our neighbours
with all that is within us.

Sung Benediction

Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say 'I am strong.'
Let the poor say 'I am rich.'
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks. Give thanks.

Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Amen, we praise your name, O God.
Amen, amen, amen, amen,
amen, we praise your name, O God.

Silent Meditation (We leave to share the good news.)

Organ Postlude

Welcome to our service of worship this morning. Thank you for joining us. We hope you will come to Lower Creelman Hall for refreshments and a time of fellowship after the service.

If you are here for the first time, please sign our guest book at the Cross Street entrance.

May God richly bless you and make you a blessing to many.

Stewardship Moment

Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961), novelist.



Weston King Neighbourhood Centre is always in need of various items: hygiene products; cups; socks; etc. Whatever your gift, we will get it there! Know that your support is greatly appreciated. ***Thank you!***

Mission Moment - Winter in War-Torn Syria

With Syria facing its seventh year of conflict, the humanitarian situation in the country continues to deteriorate. Caught in the middle of a war zone in central Syria, Rabeha was living a nightmare. Her brother had been killed and her mother lost her legs when the family's home was destroyed. Rabeha's father suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed. Unable to secure a job, Rabeha couldn't afford food, medicine for her parents or heat for the winter. The family endured cold, hungry nights before they enrolled in a *Presbyterian World Service & Development* food aid project with Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Now that her family receives food baskets, Rabeha is saving money for other needs and was able to face the harsh winter with greater peace of mind.

PWS&D responds to families displaced by conflict.

UPCOMING

Tuesday, **September 18** – *OWAISSA*
Church House – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, **September 20** – *Worship Committee*
Church House – 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, **October 7** – *Communion*
Sanctuary – 10:30 a.m.

The Bedrock of Your Assurance

God chose you from the beginning to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

Dozens of passages in the Bible speak of our final salvation (though not our election) as conditional upon a changed heart and life. The question arises then, how can I have the assurance I will persevere in faith and in the holiness necessary for inheriting eternal life?

The answer is that assurance is rooted in our election (2 Peter 1:10). Divine election is the guarantee that God will undertake to complete by sanctifying grace what his electing grace has begun.

This is the meaning of the new covenant: God does not merely command obedience, he gives it. “The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live” (Deuteronomy 30:6). “I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes” (Ezekiel 36:27; 11:20).

Election secures that “those who are justified will be glorified” (Romans 8:30), so that all the conditions laid down for glorification will be met by the power of God’s grace.

Election is the final ground of assurance because, since it is God’s commitment to save, it is also God’s commitment to enable all that is necessary for salvation.

John Piper

Readings for September 23rd

Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable woman

Psalm 1

Blessed are those...

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Wisdom from above

Mark 9:30-37

Welcoming a child



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*We meet in worship on the traditional territory of the
Mississaugas of the New Credit.*