



*“But grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”
--2 Peter 3:18a*

THE LORD’S WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Preparation for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 100

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;

All: We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

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

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

*Gloria Patri**

GLORIA PATRI (MEINKE)

Irreg. Charles Meineke, 1844

“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: ST. ANNE C.M.

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

From Psalm 90. Isaac Watts, 1719.

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
 with all their lives and cares,
 are carried downward by your flood,
 and lost in foll'wing years.
6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.
7. Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

CONFESSION OF FAITH*

Apostles 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 39:4-8

All: "LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them. And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions; Do not make me the reproach of the foolish (Psalm 39:4-8)." Hear now our silent confessions in Jesus' name.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Titus 3:3-6

Leader: Hear the good news! "For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Psalm 1

TUNE: ARLINGTON CM

"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. - cont.

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.

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 125

Leader: Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

All: *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.*

Leader: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.

All: *Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.*

Leader: As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, The LORD shall lead them away with the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 28:1-30

“Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron’s sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² “And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. ³ “So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁴ “And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁵ “ They shall take the gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, ⁶ “and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked. ⁷ “It shall have two shoulder straps joined at its two edges, and so it shall be joined together. ⁸ “And the intricately

woven band of the ephod, which is on it, shall be of the same workmanship, made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. ⁹ “Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel: ¹⁰ “six of their names on one stone, and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth. ¹¹ “With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall set them in settings of gold. ¹² “And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders as a memorial. ¹³ “You shall also make settings of gold, ¹⁴ “and you shall make two chains of pure gold like braided cords, and fasten the braided chains to the settings. ¹⁵ “ You shall make the breastplate of judgment. Artistically woven according to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, you shall make it. ¹⁶ “It shall be doubled into a square: a span shall be its length, and a span shall be its width. ¹⁷ “And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row; ¹⁸ “the second row shall be a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; ¹⁹ “the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; ²⁰ “and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings. ²¹ “And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes. ²² “ You shall make chains for the breastplate at the end, like braided cords of pure gold. ²³ “And you shall make two rings of gold for the breastplate, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate. ²⁴ “Then you shall put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate; ²⁵ “and the other two ends of the two braided chains you shall fasten to the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in the front. ²⁶ “ You shall make two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on the edge of it, which is on the inner side of the ephod. ²⁷ “And two other rings of gold you shall make, and put them on the two shoulder straps, underneath the ephod toward its front, right at the seam above the intricately woven band of the ephod. ²⁸ “They shall bind the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod, using a blue cord, so that it is above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and so that the breastplate does not come loose from the ephod. ²⁹ “So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually. ³⁰ “And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 10:1-21

Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this

way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world." ¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." ²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." ²¹ But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

BAPTISM

*Psalm of Preparation**

TUNE: PETERSHAM CMD

"Psalm 47"

"Based on Scottish Psalter, 1605"

All peoples, clap your hands for joy; to God in triumph shout;
 For awesome is the LORD Most High, Great King the earth throughout.
 He brings the peoples under us in mastery complete;
 And He it is Who nations all Subdues beneath our feet.

The land of our inheritance He chooses out for us,
 and He to us the glory gives Of Jacob whom He loves.
 God is ascended with a shout, The LORD with trumpeting.
 Sing praises unto God! Sing praise! Sing praises to our King!

For God is King of all the earth; Sing praise with skillfulness.
 God rules the nations; God sits on His throne of holiness.
 Assemble, men of Abrah'm's God! Come, people, princes, nigh!
 The shields of earth belong to God; He is exalted high.

SERMON

1 Peter 3:17-18

“Growing in Grace and Knowledge” Pastor Marc Miller

- ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;
- ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Sermon Notes

- Point 1

- Point 2

- Point 3

*Hymn of Response**

© 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

"In Christ Alone"

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh Fulness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

BENEDICTION*

* --Please stand if able

CCLI # 174248

Prayer Requests

- This week's WEPCA Missionaries: The Knight Family
- Pray for our covenant children
- Pray for our elders
- Pray for Sunday school and our Sunday school teachers
- Pray for those dealing with physical ailments

Announcements

- The men of the church are invited to attend a breakfast fellowship to be held the first Saturday of the month. The next one will be on Saturday, January 4, at 8 a.m. at IHOP on West 12th St. For More information see Pastor Miller.
- Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. We have three classes for elementary aged children and an adult class. The adults are studying the Sermon on the Mount.
- Please note we will not be having Sunday School on January 5
- We are in need of adult gym volunteers to watch the kids in the gym after church to keep them safe and allow the parents to fellowship. There is a signup sheet in the back if you would like to serve the church in that way.
- The church is sponsoring a table at the People for Life prayer breakfast to be held at the Bayfront Convention Center on Saturday, January 11, at 9 am. There is a signup sheet in the back of church if you would like to attend. For more information please talk to Pastor Miller.

Gym Volunteers

December 29—Ken and Carol Peterson

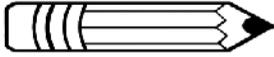
January 5—April Scarpitti

Nursery/Childcare

- If at all possible, we want families to worship together. But, at times, it may be necessary, for the orderliness and edification of the church, to utilize the nursery in the library, which is equipped with chairs and a sound system

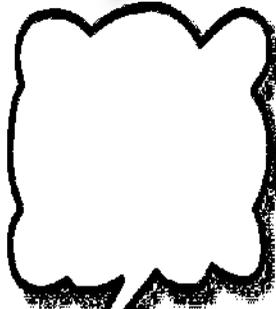
Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

Date: _____



Who is speaking?

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.



Words you heard but don't know...

What is the main passage we are reading today??

Book: _____

Chapter: _____

Verse: _____

What are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:

Write or draw something you heard in the sermon

Questions?

The most important thing you learned was:

How does today's message apply to your life?

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.
 - This means that we believe in the inspired and inerrant Word of God.
 - This means we believe in the absolute sovereignty of God.
 - This means we hold to a covenantal framework of Scripture.
 - This means that 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).

Meeting at Community Country Day School
5800 Old Zuck Road
Erie, PA 16506
Phone: (814) 504-6513
E-mail: westeriepca@gmail.com
www.wepca.org