



Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 30, 2020

The Prelude: *A time of silence to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*
(Elder leading worship: Ed Payne)

Welcome, Announcements and Silent Prayer (10:25)

Call to Worship: Psalm 98:4-6

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous sound and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Salutation: Ezekiel 34:22-24; 2 Timothy 1:2

I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey... I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Christ Jesus our Lord.

Invocation

Hymn: *Psalm 146A - Praise the Lord (See Insert)*

Confession of Faith: Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Confession of Sin: Ezekiel 33:10-11

'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure

in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon: Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Hymn # 725: *The Lord's Prayer*

1. Our Father, Lord of heav'n and earth,
let praise and honor clothe your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done'
throughout the world complete your
reign. Teach us, O Lord, to trust in
You for bread and breath each day
anew.

2. Forgive us, Lord, our sins and debts as
we to debtors show Your grace. Remove us
from all tempting paths and guard us from
the devil's ways; for glory, strength, and
heaven's throne belong to You, and You
alone.

Offering Scripture/Prayer: Luke 12:33-34

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Doxology Hymn # 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Choir Anthem: *If My People*

If My people, which are called by My
name,
Shall humble themselves,
shall humble themselves and pray;

If my people which are called by My
name,
Shall seek My face and
turn from their wicked ways;
Then will I hear from heaven,

Then will I hear from heaven,
Then will I hear and will forgive,
forgive their sin.

If My people, which are called by My
name,
Shall humble themselves,
shall humble themselves and pray;
I will forgive their sin, I will forgive
their sin,

I will forgive their sin, And heal their land.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

If My people, which are called by My name,
Shall humble themselves,
shall humble themselves and pray.

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Children ages 4-2nd grade may go to Children's Church at this time

Prayer for Congregation

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:12-26

Sermon: *Preparing for Pentecost: Waiting for God to Work* By Pastor Mark Scholten

Hymn # 600: *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!*

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,

still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.
[Refrain]

3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me.
[Refrain]

4. And when my task on earth is done,
when, by thy grace, the vict'ry's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.
[Refrain]

Benediction: Galatians 6:9-10; 18

And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Waiting on God

Question: "Why is waiting on God so difficult?"

Answer: Waiting on God is not only difficult; sometimes it seems impossible. We want things to happen in our own timing, according to our plans. But God doesn't operate on our schedules, and expecting that He will sets one up for disappointment.

Waiting on God means going without answers to prayer, wondering why the wicked seem to prosper, and having desires delayed and hope deferred. God has a greater perspective of life's events, and His perspective, plans, and schedules are perfect and holy, because He is perfect and holy. The psalmist tells us, "As for God, His way is perfect" (Psalm 18:30). If God's ways are "perfect," then we can trust that whatever He does—and whatever His timing—is also perfect. When we grasp that fact, waiting on God is not only made less difficult, it actually becomes joyful.

The promises of God are clear on this matter—in waiting on God, we find our strength renewed (Isaiah 40:31). But we are human, and we live in a fast-paced culture that demands everything now. That's one reason why waiting on God is difficult. Sometimes, the prayers we lift up to the Lord of Hosts are answered immediately, and that encourages us to further trust and confidence. However, sometimes the Lord's answers are delayed. Over a period of time, the Lord tests our faith, and that's when we can really struggle. We may even start to wonder whether the Lord is really listening to our prayers.

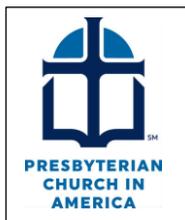
Waiting on God should not cause the believer to doubt or to worry. The apostle Paul exhorts us to not be anxious about anything (Philippians 4:6). The King James Version translates this as the command to be "careful for nothing." This means we are not to be full of care over anything; we should be mindful of nothing that might cause concern, except to bring it to God in prayer. Anxiety in the believer suggests a lack of faith, and that grieves the Lord (see Matthew 8:26).

Waiting on God can keep us out of trouble. Abraham had God's promise of a son through whom the covenant would be fulfilled (Genesis 15:4). Abraham and Sarah tried and waited, but they could have no child. Rather than waiting on God and His timing, they unwisely took matters into their own hands, and Ishmael was the result (Genesis 16).

One divine attribute that will enable us to patiently wait on God is His sovereignty. We can have complete confidence in His total, independent control over every creature, event, and circumstance at every moment in history. Subject to none, influenced by none, and absolutely independent, God does what He pleases, only as He pleases, and always as He pleases. Nothing can stay His hand: "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please" (Isaiah 46:10). Once we better understand God's sovereignty, coupled with His goodness, waiting for God to act becomes a matter of a child trusting in his father's faithfulness, sure of his father's strength.

Waiting on God is never easy, but we wait in the knowledge that God knows our situation, He cares for our needs, and He is good to the end. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).

Anonymous



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Pastor Mark Scholten
Darlene Mullen, Choir Director/Pianist
4303 Wheeler Road Martinez, GA 30907
706-863-8978 wpcmartinez@knology.net www.wpcmartinez.org
Podcast & Past Sermons: <https://bit.ly/WestPCA>
[Livestream: westminstertv.live](https://westminstertv.live)