

Date: November 19, 2023
Season of the Holy Spirit
Gratitude Sunday

Prayer of Preparation

Anne Osdieck

Creator of the Universe, you have entrusted this planet to us. Now let us use all the talents you have given to us to bring it to its fullness. No shrinking. No burying the talents. Let each and every one of us do our part to bring healing and sow beauty in all creation and to share in your joy.

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music

Traumerei

Robert Schumann

***Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.

***Hymn**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

GTG 716

Confessing Our Separation from God (unison)

Liturgist

We are "pack rats", O Lord. You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we

have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus' blessed Name, we pray. Amen

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*Assurance of Forgiveness	<i>Jesus, Draw Me Close</i> Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You. Let the world around me fade away. Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You. For I desire to worship and obey.	Rick Founds

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer of Illumination		Liturgist
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Anthem	<i>What a Wonderful World</i> Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento	B. Thiele & G. Weiss
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Hebrew Scriptures	Matthew 25:14-30	Liturgist
<i>Source: The New Jerusalem Bible</i>		

Reflection	Investing for God	
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*Affirmation of Faith	<i>I Believe in Jesus</i>	Marc Nelson
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**Joys and Hopes of the People of God &
The Lord's Prayer**

The Act of Gratitude Offertory:	<i>For the Life That You Have Given</i>	GTG 717
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***Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God**

GTG 606

Tune: Old Hundredth

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

Liturgist

Generous God, your good gifts to us are too many to name! We have been so blessed, not so that we might hide away these blessings, but to use them so that the blessings might be multiplied. As we give from our blessing stockpile, help it to multiply and grow. May our gifts empower multiple acts of mercy and compassion, and may your love pour over this world like a flood. If we have buried these gracious blessings, may today be the day we dig them up and put them to work, so that we might be seen as your faithful servants! Amen.

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn**

Come, Labor On

GTG 719

***Benediction**

Postlude

I Wish I Knew What it Was Like to be Free

Billy Taylor

Next Week's Liturgist: Dave Norton

WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Eddie Jusino

Liturgist: Jim Reed

Ushers: Diana Green and Nancy Tompkins

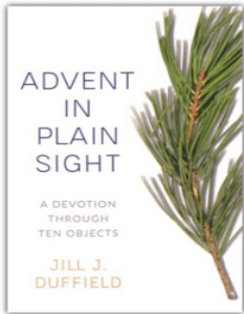
Music: David Libby

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

The Westminster Choir

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent Study & Lunch

Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects

Advent is, above all else, a season of hope – a virtue that is all too rare in our world.

At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary “stuff of life” - gates, tears, belts, trees, cloth, light, hearts, gold, stars, and water – alongside a biblical text. Each Scripture reading reminds us that God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places. As we pay attention to a particular object – see, hear, feel it – we allow that tangible item to point to the sometimes-ineffable work of God in our ordinary lives.

Mark your calendars! Join us for a delicious soup and bread lunch following the class, hosted by Ken/Judy McDyer and Phil/Marylea Franz. Join us every Wednesday morning for eight weeks (**November 29 through January 17**), from 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. in the warmth of Fellowship Hall or Zoom from the comfort of your living room. Please RSVP by calling the church at (302) 227-2109 or email at rehobothwpc20@gmail.com.

Copies of the book are available in the Narthex, outside the Church Office at \$10.00 each or can be ordered from Amazon.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 @ 10-11am – SUNDAY SERVICE with Reception of New Members followed by Fellowship Hour in the Hall.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 @ 10am–Hanging of the Greens and Service. Join the fun decorating the church for Christmas, followed by a short service and light refreshments. Let Silvia know if you will be there (302-604-9529).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 10-11am – Sunday Service and Congregational Meeting – right after the service, the Nominating Committee will report and vote for incoming Elders and Deacons.

WPC CHURCH CLOSURE POLICY ON INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

Dear Members and Friends:

Old Man Winter is upon us. To protect everyone from venturing out in hazardous weather conditions, Session wanted everyone to be informed of our Church closure policy.

First: Pastor Eddie will be in contact with the WBOC news and weather station to have our Church closure posted, as necessary. If committees are meeting during the day/week of inclement weather conditions, follow the WBOC guidelines for the Cape Henlopen School District closure notice.

Second: if worship service is closed, Pastor Eddie will be in touch with Wendy and Melissa, our staff. They will send an email blast to the membership and post the notice on social media regarding the closure notice by 3:00p.m. on Saturday.

**If a member or family emergency occurs, Pastor Eddie can be reached on
516-375-9216**

Stay well and safe everyone. God Bless

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Praise God for his faithfulness; he heard our fervent prayers and miracles happened! Rob Book received a heart transplant. We pray with deepest gratitude for the precious soul who passed to More Life, as well as his/her grieving family, who made the transplant possible. We continue to lift up Rob, and his family, as he adjusts to this new lease on life. May God protect him. Also, Dave and Deb Norton's friend, **John Witt**, had successful surgery and was able to keep his kidney and is now cancer-free. Hallelujah and Amen!

Mary Beth Adair is very grateful for our prayers and asks that we continue to lift her up as she prepares for yet another surgery. May she be comforted by the faithful presence of the Holy Spirit and the loving prayers of her WPC family. May Our Lord continue to guide her doctors as they seek to resolve her complicated health issues.

Surgery and Post-Surgery:

Charlotte Jacobs

Lois Ann Rayner

Illness

Al Cybart & Patricia Cybart (Al and Linda Cybart's son and infant granddaughter)

Long Term Health Concerns

Mary Beth Adair

Linda Book

Jean Guenveur

Bill Meyer

Jane Nicholson

Sherry Schnepfe

Lisa Salita (Pastor, Georgetown Presbyterian Church)