

**Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, January 25, 2025**  
**Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Color: Green**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California**

Visit the church website: [www.wpctiburon.org](http://www.wpctiburon.org), 415-383-5272  
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*This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.*



**Call to Worship(8:30)**

One: For those who have walk with us,

**Many: We give thanks.**

One: For the times we have had to make life's journey alone,

**Many: We celebrate the strength we found inside.**

One: For the chance to accompany someone else when their road gets hard,

**Many: We pray for steady strength.**

**Opening Blessing (10:00)**

God, you have blessed us with people in our lives who have been with us on our journeys. We are grateful for them. We may have been those people to someone else and we pray we are always aware of who needs an abiding presence. Thank you for meeting us here, to give us the space to reflect and the strength to continue life's path in joy and good company. Amen.

**Community Prayer**

**We pause to give thanks for the ones who have made choices to benefit our lives, often sacrificing their own possibilities or preferences. We honor faithful family members, good friends, classmates or co-workers who stood by us through a tough time. We pray that we might be likewise faithful, and ask for forgiveness for when we have only thought of our own journeys. We pray for your grace and your awareness, O God. Amen.**

**Sermon Focus & Title**      “Going with You” - On The Road Series      Robert McClellan

What does it mean to stick together, to make choices because of what’s best for someone else? Similarly, how are we conscious of the choices others have made for our own wellbeing? To be more aware of the ways in which we live for each other is to make us more grateful and attentive to the web of relationships in which we find ourselves. The tale of Ruth and Naomi reminds us that faith is not only sticking with God, but sticking with one another with our whole beings.

**Scripture(s)**

Ruth 1:1-22

1

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had had consideration for his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.’ Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup>They said to her, ‘No, we will return with you to your people.’ <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, ‘Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.’ <sup>14</sup>Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, ‘See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.’ <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said,  
‘Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;

where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!

<sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, 'Is this Naomi?' <sup>20</sup> She said to them,

'Call me no longer Naomi,  
call me Mara,  
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

<sup>21</sup> I went away full,  
but the LORD has brought me back empty;  
why call me Naomi  
when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,  
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?'

22 So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

### Hymns

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm 731

Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

### Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

-Ruth 1:15 b

1. Who has made choices to prioritize your journey over their own?
2. What does loyalty mean to you? Who earns it and how?
3. Can you think of a time you felt abandoned or felt left to fend for yourself?
4. When have you stuck with someone, sacrificing your own freedom or preferences?
5. What does committed love allow and empower us to do?