

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, February 15 , 2026
Ordinary Time
Liturgical Color: Green
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
240 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California 94920

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: Many are the gifts of this day.

Many: **We offer praise for what has brought us here.**

One: We honor that which we have overcome and endured.

Many: **We celebrate challenges met, obstacles cleared.**

One: As we gather in prayerful community, let us be bound to the source of all strength and wisdom, and the gift of others who desire what is best for us.

Many: **Let us worship as one.**

Opening Blessing (10:00)

We offer praise and thanks for the gifts of this day, for what has brought us here, for what we have overcome and endured, for what we have seen, for the memories which bless us and shape us. We celebrate challenges met, obstacles cleared. We seek healing for bruises still tender. We gather to grow closer to the one at the heart of it all and to be in loving community. Amen.

Community Prayer

Healing One, encouraging One, accompanying One, even as we celebrate how you equip us for this life, we lament the pain we experience and we witness in others. We grieve suffering we may have caused in moments of short-temper or lack of perspective. Take our

grief as repentance, and turn us to the work of repair. Release us of old patterns and restore us to new life that we might grow in resilience and grace. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

Endurance: The Gifts of Paul Revisited Robert McClellan
“What doesn’t kill us makes us stronger.” Okay, that’s a cliché, but what if I told you that even what kills us has the potential to make us stronger, or better yet, more loving, grace-filled, and joyful? The point is not that suffering is fun, inflicted pain is acceptable, or that we should engage in self-harm because it is somehow inherently good. A lot of bad Christian theology glorifies suffering for the sake of suffering. Paul offers us this strengthening teaching that says we have been filled with peace, filled with God’s love, filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore we may face whatever comes, suffering included, in confidence that we can endure, grow, and in doing so prevail.

Scripture(s)

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Hymns

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord 432

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

“The unconditional yes, with its implicit trust of the givens’ usefulness to our growth, cuts through that fear-based view of life. Saying yes to reality—to the things we cannot change—is like choosing to turn around and sit in the saddle in the direction the horse is going.”

- David Richo

1. What is your initial reaction to Paul's line, "suffering produces endurance"? What is your experience of suffering?
2. What ingredient does Paul add to the suffering equation (i.e. that allows it to be transformed into endurance and character?)?
3. What is the role of acceptance in the face of suffering?
4. What are examples of your own growth through times of challenge? What allowed you to endure and grow?
5. How can accepting your suffering head on free you up to be more loving and gracious?