



West End
presbyterian church

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

JESUS CHRIST IS BORN

“Let the just rejoice,
for their Justifier is born.

Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
for their Savior is born.

Let the captives rejoice,
for their Redeemer is born.

Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.

Let free men rejoice,
for their Liberator is born.

Let all Christians rejoice,
for Jesus Christ is born.”

--Augustine of Hippo

The First Sunday after Christmas

We are now celebrating the Season of Christmas, a time that helps us to remember Christ's birth and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His promised return when He will come to redeem His creation and exercise His authority.

GATHERING SONG

"Let us go to Bethlehem and see."
Luke 2:15

Attr. to John Francis Wade (1751);
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John
Francis Wade, Cantus Diversi
(1751). Public Domain.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O Come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning
come ye O come ye to Beth - le - hem.
sing all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven - a - bove;
Je - sus to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;
Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est; O
Word of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing.
come let us a - dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him, O
come let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 25:8-9

He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,

**"Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;
let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates
Behold, the King of glory waits
The King of kings is drawing near
the Savior of the world is here

2. A Helper just, He comes to thee
His chariot is humility
His kingly crown is holiness
His scepter, pity, in distress

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide
Let me Thy inner presence feel
Thy grace and love in me reveal

4. So come, my Sovereign, enter in
Let new and nobler life begin
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on
Until the glorious crown be won

Based on Psalm 24.

Georg Weissel (1642), trans.
Catherine Winkworth (1855),
Tune: TRURO, Psalmodia
Evangelica (1789).
Public domain.

Welcome

We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are visiting our church for the first time, or are a regular attender or church member, we encourage you to use our online "Keep in Touch" form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church. Following the service, please join Pastor Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.

GOSPEL READING

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:8-11

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
With all our heart and with all our mind,
let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have
mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the
Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples,
we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they
may serve in wisdom, and promote the dignity
and freedom of every person. For President
Biden, for the leaders of the nations, and all
others in authority, that they may do justice, love
mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, we pray to
You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Richmond, the Commonwealth of Virginia,
for every city and community, and for those who
live in them, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and
orphaned, all homes which are broken or torn
by strife, and for the sick, the wounded, and the
suffering. Comfort and heal all those who suffer
in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and
hope in the midst of their troubles, and bring
them the joy of Your salvation.

We pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have lost, in death, the ones they
love. For all who continue in the hope of the
resurrection of the dead, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the
unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and
captives, and for all who remember and care for
them, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For You to raise up those who fall; and finally to
beat down Satan under our feet,
we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those
who have struggled in the faith, that they may
rest in the truth of the Gospel,
we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence,
oppression, and degradation,
we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who endeavor to do
us harm, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That it may please You to forgive our enemies,
persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their
hearts to You in repentance,
we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all whom we have injured or offended.
For the forgiveness and remission of our sins,
we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful
witness she may preach the Gospel to the ends
of the earth, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
 He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
 He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
 Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
 You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Psalm 23

OFFERING

If participation in the offering is part of your weekly worship, please place your offering in one of the offering plates near the rear Sanctuary doors, mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229), or visit www.wepc.org/giving for online giving options.

*****We are having a challenging time with receiving mail through the USPS. It has been unpredictable and inconsistent. If you receive a returned piece of mail that was addressed to WEPC, please report that to the church office. Our mailing address is the same. We encourage you to either drop off your giving in person, or to place it in the offering plate during Sunday worship. We apologize for this inconvenience.*****

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God (Rom. 12:1).

SONG OF PRAISE

JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come
 Let earth receive her King
 Let every heart prepare Him room
 And heaven and nature sing
 And heaven and nature sing
 And heaven, and heaven
 And nature sing

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns
 Let men their songs employ
 While fields and floods
 rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

3. No more let sin and sorrows grow
 Nor thorns infest the ground
 He comes to make
 His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found
 Far as the curse is found
 Far as, far as the curse is found

4. He rules the world with
 Truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love
 And wonders of His love
 And wonders, wonders of His love

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.” Psalm 98:4

Isaac Watts (1719); tune: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel (1742). Public domain.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:16

"¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/sermons.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

"And I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Forgive them all, O Lord;
Our sins of omission and our sins of commission;
The sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years;
The sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;
Our secret and our more open sins;
Our sins of ignorance and surprise,
And our more deliberate and presumptuous sin;
The sins we have done to please ourselves,
And the sins we have done to please others;
The sins we know and remember,
And the sins we have forgotten;
The sins we have striven to hide from others
And the sins by which we have made others offend You;**

**Forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for His sake,
Who died for our sins and rose for our justification,
And now stands at Your right hand
To make intercession for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silent Confession of Sin

John Wesley, 18th Century

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts worship something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

There are four tables on the floor at the front of the sanctuary. Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family. Feel free to take additional elements to bring back to your seats to serve others in your family or group. After all are served and have returned to their seats, we will take the bread and the cup together as a congregation.

Wine and grape juice with gluten free bread are available in double cups. The wafer is found in the bottom cup.

The Elders presiding over the Supper today are standing at a safe distance from each communion table. Know that they are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, please raise your hand and an Elder will come to serve you the elements. If you are unable to attend today's worship service and desire Elders to come to your home to administer the Lord's Supper, please let the church office know.

If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

ANGELS, FROM THE REALM OF GLORY

1. Angels, from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant Light
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King

3. Sages, leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen his natal star
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King

4. Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising
To th' eternal Three in One
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King

"They saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him." Matthew 2:11

James Montgomery (1816)
Tune: REGENT SQUARE,
Henry T. Smart (1867).
Public domain.

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born
On Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray...

*O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

2. From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name...

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel
"Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's pow'r and might."...

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10

English Carol (18th century);
Tune: Traditional English
Melody. Public Domain.

Colossians 1:15-21

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

"A great company of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest.'" Luke 2:13-14

Charles Wesley (1739);
Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix
Mendelssohn (1840). Public
domain.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

3. Hail the heav'n born
Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."
– Psalm 150:6

Text: Thomas Ken (1709)
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH
(Bourgeois, 1551)

What does "doxology" mean?
It's derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

BENEDICTION

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

Romans 12:12-13

Our Elders are available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the 9AM & 10:30AM services.

The Last Word
God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Elder B-J Huff led worship. Pastor Kevin Greene, Lori Bowman, Deacon Rick McMahon, and Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered led this morning's congregational singing. Prelude music was provided by Eliza Sweeney. Ross Bruning and Sean Winterhalter managed today's audio and video live stream. Scott Dicken and Kristin Tetterton managed the in-house video system.

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

Adult Sunday School: Beginning Jan 9th / 9AM

www.wepc.org/adults

- Series on King Solomon / Library
- Series on Discipleship / Library, then Rm. 21

Wednesday Night Fellowship

The Book of Job: God in Our Suffering

www.wepc.org/WNFJob

Wednesdays beginning Jan 12
6-7:30PM / Chapel

Third Saturday Mature Singles Fellowship

www.wepc.org/MASfellowship

Next Meeting: January 15 / 4-5:30PM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**No Sunday School, Preschool Quest or
Children's Worship on 12/26 or 1/2*

9 AM

- Nursery (infant-3 years old)--upstairs
- Preschool Quest (4 & 5 years old)--downstairs
- Sunday School (K-5)--downstairs

10:30 AM

- Nursery (infant-3 years old)--upstairs
- Children's Worship (4 years old - 2nd grade)
--Chapel

GOSPEL & RACE

www.wepc.org/resources/gospel-race/

Book Study: Becoming All Things

Sundays, Jan 16-Feb 20

6-7:30PM / Greene Home

Interested in learning how the Gospel empowers us to love our neighbors across racial and ethnic differences? We invite you to join in discussing how the reality of Jesus Christ informs our understanding of engaging our neighbors who come from different backgrounds. Register now!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

www.wepc.org/foodpantry

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Sewing Friends Restarting Jan. 19

Wednesdays / 9:30-11:30AM / Rm. 23

Looking for ways to connect with immigrant women and share the love of Jesus?

Join Sewing Friends for opportunities to sew together and develop relationships – ability to sew is helpful, but not required.

Contact Christine Morobe (christine@wepc.org) if interested.

Simple English Christian Service

www.wepc.org/simpleenglish

Second Sunday of each month / 12PM / Chapel

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

Youth Sunday School: Resumes Jan 9th / 9AM

Wednesday Night Youth Group:

Resumes Jan 12th

- Middle School / 6-7:30PM / Gym
- High School / 7:30-9PM / Gym

GENERAL INFORMATION

End-of Year Contributions

To ensure your church contributions are tax-deductible, please drop off any donations by 12PM on 12/31 or make sure they are post-marked by 12/31. Please check your bank and investment account statements for uncleared stock or cash donations to WEPC. Contact AmyCaroline Wilks (acwilks@wepc.org) with any questions.

Counseling

Lara Finnie, Licensed Professional Counselor at WEPC, is available by appointment. Visit Abiding Branches for more information.

PRAYER

Our staff prays weekly for the known needs of our congregation. If we can pray for you, please write your request below and drop this page into the offering plate.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Especially if this is your first Sunday with us – welcome!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone (H): _____

(W): _____ (C): _____

Email: _____

Who invited you to WEPC? How did you first hear about us?

◇ Check if this is NEW contact information for you.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

◇ Visitor

◇ Male

◇ Female

◇ Single

◇ Student (Grade ____)

◇ Student (College)

◇ Married

◇ Parent

◇ Widowed

Age:

◇ 20 or younger

◇ 21-26

◇ 27-34

◇ 35-49

◇ 50-64

◇ 65 and older

I would like info about:

◇ WEPC

◇ Women's Ministry

◇ Men's Ministry

◇ Childrens Ministry

◇ Youth Ministry

◇ Adult Classes

◇ Home Groups

◇ Neighborhood Outreach

◇ Becoming a member of WEPC

◇ Other: _____

◇ Please include me on the WEPC email list.

◇ I am interested in learning more about becoming a Christian.