



West End
presbyterian church

The First Sunday of Advent

In the Christian year, Advent is a time that helps us to remember Christ's first coming and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His second coming when He will return to redeem His creation and exercise His rule with all power and authority.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

Each worship service this Advent season, we will prepare our hearts to meet with the Lord during an extended musical prelude.

STAY AWAKE

"The first coming of Christ the Lord, God's Son and our God, was in obscurity. The Second will be in sight of the whole world. When He came in obscurity it was to be judged. When He comes openly it will be to Judge. Let us not resist the First Advent, and the Second will not terrify us."
--Augustine of Hippo

"The door on which we have been knocking all our lives will open at last."
--C.S. Lewis

"By Your first coming: Righteous;
At Your second coming: Free."
--Anonymous, 10th century

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalms 80:1-3; To the choirmaster.
According to the lilies.
A testimony of Asaph, a Psalm.*

Today's Call to Worship was
read by Patrick Wininger.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up Your might and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God;
let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

INVOCATION

DECLARATION OF FAITH

**We believe that our good God,
by His marvelous wisdom and goodness,
seeing that man had plunged himself
into both physical and spiritual death
and made himself completely miserable,
set out to find him,
though man, trembling all over,
was fleeing from Him.
And He comforted him promising to give him His Son,
“born of a woman,”
to crush the head of the serpent, and to make him blessed.**

*from Article 17, of the Belgic
Confession (1561)*

SONG OF ADORATION

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You*

1. O Lord of life, our only hope
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts...

2. Oh joy above all other loves
In You we find more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore
Come light our hearts...

*“Blessed is he whose help
is the God of Jacob, whose
hope is in the LORD his
God” Psalm 146:5*

Sandra McCracken
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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 or paper “[Keep in Touch](#)” form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church. Following the service, please introduce yourself to Pastor Steve Shelby either in the Gallery or on the front sidewalk.

COMMISSIONING (10:30am)

Katie Howe, Niger, World Medical Mission

Led by Chris Hearn

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.' Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace."

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

GUIDE OUR FEET

Give light to all
Who dwell in the dark
And guide our feet into the way of peace

Jess Alldredge. ©2016 Grace Church Seattle.
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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 (Romans 12:1).

OFFERING

You can place your offering and/or tear-off as the plates pass. If you miss today's offering, please visit www.wepc.org/giving for online giving options or mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229).

*"I will sing to the LORD,
because He has dealt
bountifully with me."
Psalm 13:6*

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BOUNTIFULLY WITH ME

1. I will sing my praise to the Lord
For the Lord
Has dealt bountifully with me
I will sing my praise with joy
Give thanks, rejoice
He's dealt bountifully with me

2. I will trust God's love never fails
For the Lord
Has dealt bountifully with me
I will trust God's love remains
Through sun and the rain
He's dealt bountifully with me

3. I will fix my hope on the Cross
Where the Lord
Has dealt bountifully with me
I will fix my hope on the Son
His scars, His love
He's dealt bountifully with me

4. I can't wait for the day He returns
When the Lord
Will deal bountifully with me
What a day
When the faith will be sight
Every wrong be made right
He's dealt bountifully with me
He's dealt bountifully with me

SCRIPTURE READING

³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Mark 13:32-37

SERMON

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

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD’S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*1 Timothy 3:9;
1 Corinthians 5:7-8,
10:16-17, 15:3-4; from the
Book of Common Prayer*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

**Lord, You alone are full of grace and truth,
but we have not kept watch for You.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have sought our own glory above Yours.
We have not waited to find Your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of others around us.
We have not acknowledged Your favor
and the love that You have shown us.
Forgive us for our sins against You.
Heavenly Father, help us to yield to the wisdom of Your ways;
Lord Jesus, lead us to live in light of Your coming;
Holy Spirit, give us faith to see that You are truly among us;
Amen.**

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Hebrews 9:28

Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,
will appear a second time,
not to deal with sin
but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

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. The Elders presiding over the Supper are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

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

AMEN, AMEN

1. Let every creature rise and bring
Their grateful praises to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And Earth repeats a loud "Amen"...

Amen, Amen
Amen, Amen
My life is found
My life is found in Him
Amen, Amen

2. Peace like a river from His throne
Will flow to nations yet unknown
His Word a light where all hope is dim
And all tribes unite to cry "Amen"...

3. And in this Child we'll find our rest
And all the meek and lowly blessed
And infant tongues can sing the hymn
Of "Hallelujah and Amen"...

"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20

Neil and Kate Robins
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"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Revelation 21:5

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ALL THINGS NEW

1. Come Lord and tarry not
Bring the long looked for day
O why these years of waiting here
These ages of decay

2. Come for Thy saints still wait
Daily ascends their sigh
The Spirit and the Bride say come
Does Thou not hear the cry...

*O come and make all things new
Come and make all things new
O come and make all things new
Build up this ruined earth
Come and make all things new*

3. Come for creation groans
Impatient of Thy stay
Worn out with these long years of ill
These ages of delay

4. Come for love waxes cold
Its steps are faint and slow
Faith now is lost in unbelief
Hope's lamp burns dim and low...

"And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD."
Isaiah 59:20

Charles Wesley | Rowland
Hugh Prichard. Public
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COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

2. Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

DOXOLOGY



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

*"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."

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

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Robin Huff, Mya Wilcox, Casey O'Dea, and Deacon Karl Kuder led this morning's congregational singing. Jay Smith and Deacon Tim Andrews managed today's audio and video live stream. Luke Farkas managed the in-house video system.

Romans 12:12-13

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.

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Adult Sunday School: Hope and the Coming of Christ

www.wepc.org/adults

***No Meeting Today, 11/27**

Through Dec 18 / Rm 810 / 9AM

To help prepare for the season of Christmas, join us as we look at how the biblical concept of hope pops up in all of redemptive history, and how it culminates in the first and second advents of Jesus.

Men's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/men

Second Monday

December 12 / 6:30 PM / FH

Join us for our monthly gathering of men from WEPC and the community for food, fellowship, & Gospel teaching.

Contact Mike Glasgow (atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com)

Men's Basketball (ages 35+)

Thursdays / 7-9 PM / Gym

Contact: EJ Fogarty (efogarty@gmail.com)

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Advent Sundays in the Psalms

December 4, 11, & 18 / 9:15AM / Chapel

Join us for an opportunity to reflect together on the hope of Immanuel for our longing hearts.

Contemplative Advent Morning

December 13 / 9:30-11AM / Chapel

Join us for an opportunity to rest and reflect on Jesus, Immanuel, who is God with us. RSVP by Dec. 4 to Sandy Elder (santeecoop@gmail.com).

Women's Retreat: Registration Open!

Feb 25-26, 2023 / Roslyn Retreat Center

Join us for a weekend of rest and refreshment in the Gospel, while growing in community with the women of WEPC.

Register now or contact Heather Oberle (hoberle@wepc.org).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

<https://www.wepc.org/grow/children/>

***No Sunday School or Children's Worship Today, 11/27**

9 AM

- Nursery (infant-3 years); upstairs
- Sunday School (PreK-5); downstairs

10:30 AM

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

Kids' Club (K-5th grade)

Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM / Room 25

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School: No Sunday School Today, 11/27**
- **Youth Group:** Wednesdays / Youth Lounge
6-7:30 PM--Middle School
7:30-9 PM--High School
- **Youth Group Christmas Party**
Wednesday / December 14

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Math Tutors Needed

The Tutoring Ministry is looking for math tutors for High School students who are on the waiting list for tutoring. If you are available Monday-Friday from 5-6 pm, we would love to have you join the team. Contact: Evelyne Cubahiro (evelyne@wepc.org)

Sewing Friends Volunteers Needed

Wednesdays / 9:15-11:45AM / Room 23

Join us as we make simple machine-sewn projects with immigrant women and share Bible stories. Sewing experience is helpful, but not necessary. Contact: Christine Morobe (christine@wepc.org)

MISSIONS

Angel Tree

WEPC is again working with Prison Fellowship to provide gifts to children whose parents are currently incarcerated. The Angel Tree cards are now available - sign up in the Gallery. Gifts due at WEPC December 4th. Contact Steve Glissman (steveglissman@gmail.com) for more details.

STEP Christmas Store

Collecting donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children living in Gilpin Court. For more information on suggested items or volunteering, please visit [our website](#). Donations due at WEPC TODAY.

Reformed University Fellowship at the University of Richmond

Interested in learning more about plans for a new RUF work at UR? A group will gather to talk and pray about vision and support on Saturday January 28 (time TBD) at the home of Phil and Rachel Rohr (6806 University Drive 23229). Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

African American Church-Planter Fund (AACPF)

www.wepc.org/aacpf

The AACPF seeks to fund African-American led church plants in the James River Presbytery. New gifts given to the AACPF before December 31, 2022 will be matched through a generous grant, up to a total of \$7,500.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Chris May, Bill Phillips, Jon Greenhill, & Rick McMahan

Prayer & Support Group

Email pray4fam@wepc.org for prayer and support for couples struggling with infertility.

Counseling

Lara Finnie, LPC, is facilitating a counseling group for women who struggle with their relationship with food and body image. Text Lara at 804-552-1524 or email lara@wepc.org.

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 11/20/22):

Operating gifts YTD: \$750,742.47
Forecasted gifts YTD: \$844,744.66
% of expected budget received: 88.87%

Barnabas Training Basic

February 11, 2023 / 9 AM-4 PM / WEPC
Led by the counseling staff at The Barnabas Center, the seminar equips you to better encourage friends and loved ones facing difficult times in life and faith. [Register now!](#) Contact: Kim Johnson (kjohnson@barnabasrva.org)

Sandra McCracken Christmas

December 1 / 7:30PM / Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Join us for an evening of Christmas music, folk songs, and some Sandra originals as we begin this Advent season. Tickets available [online](#).

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at WEPC

Advent Worship Service: *Every Longing Heart*

TONIGHT / 7PM / Sanctuary

Advent is a season of waiting. As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth, we all know grief, loss, and longing. Join us as we gather for a service of remembrance, redemption, and hope. At this service we will lament the losses experienced in this broken world, and look expectantly in hope to Jesus, the Desire of every nation, the true Joy of every longing heart.

Advent 2022 Devotional

A weekly worship devotional to guide the church in celebrating the coming of our Savior through Scripture, prayer, and song. Available TODAY [online](#) and in the church gallery.

Children's Advent Devotional

Follow along with the Jesus Storybook Bible 2022 Advent edition, as it points your children to our Savior! Visit the table in the Gallery or our [Children's Ministry](#) website for instructions, reading schedule, packets, and a soundtrack for the stories!

Neighborhood Caroling

Dec 15 / 6PM / Fellowship Hall

Join us for a night of fellowship and Christmas caroling with your WEPC family! Contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org) with any questions.

Christmas Eve Services

- **4PM: Family-friendly Service** celebrating our Savior's Advent through Scripture and song. Children are encouraged to bring an offering of non-perishable food for the WEPC Food Pantry.
- **7PM: Communion Service of Lessons & Carols** celebrating our Savior's Advent through Scripture and song.
- **Scripture Readers Needed:** If you are interested in reading Scripture at the 4PM or 7PM Christmas Eve services, please contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org).

Sunday December 25 & January 1 Services

We will have ONE worship service at **10:30 AM** on Christmas Day & New Year's Day with nursery services provided. The following ministries will NOT meet: Adult, Youth, & Children's Sunday School, and Children's Worship.

Keep in Touch

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

Date: _____

Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

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 | Age: |
| ◇ Male | ◇ 20 or younger |
| ◇ Female | ◇ 21-26 |
| ◇ Single | ◇ 27-34 |
| ◇ Student (Grade ___) | ◇ 35-49 |
| ◇ Student (College) | ◇ 50-64 |
| ◇ Married | ◇ 65 and older |
| ◇ Parent | |
| ◇ Widowed | |

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.

Prayer Requests: