



West End
presbyterian church

The Third 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.

PREPARE

"To attend a marriage feast and cleanse the temple were among the first acts of our Lord's ministry at His first coming. To purify the whole visible Church, and hold a Marriage Supper, will be among His first acts, when He comes again."

--J.C. Ryle

"Do not resist the First Advent, and the Second will not terrify us."

--Augustine

"This little Babe so few days old
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at His presence quake,
Though He Himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell He will surprise."

--Robert Southwell

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 45:6-7, 17. To the
choirmaster: according to the
lilies. A maskil of the sons of
Korah. A love song.*

Today's Call to Worship was
read by Martha Hills.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

**I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever**

INVOCATION

DECLARATION OF FAITH

**We believe that God –
Who is perfectly merciful
and also very just –
sent His Son to assume the nature
in which the disobedience had been committed,
in order to bear in it the punishment of sin
by His most bitter passion and death.
So God made known His justice toward His Son,
Who was charged with our sin,
and He poured out His goodness and mercy on us,
who are guilty and worthy of condemnation
giving to us His Son to die,
by a most perfect love,
and raising Him to life
for our justification,
in order that by Him
we might have eternal life.**

*from the Belgic Confession,
Article 20, "The Justice and
Mercy of God in Christ"
(1561)*

SONG OF ADORATION

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

1. Creator of the stars of night
Thy people's everlasting light
O Christ, Redeemer of us all
We pray you hear us when we call...

*Come, oh come
Come, oh come
Come, oh come
To us*

2. When this old world drew on toward night
You came, but not in splendor bright
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary blameless mother mild...

*"He who testifies to these
things says, 'Surely I am
coming soon.' Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus!"
Revelation 22:20*

Words: Anonymous,
7th Century. Additional
Lyrics: Alex Mejias. Music:
Alex Mejias © 2009
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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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1-5

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

"Guide Our Feet"

(Luke 1:78-79) references the prophecy of Zechariah as he waited for the coming Messiah.

Today, we sing these verses as an Advent prayer of longing for His appearing.

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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OFFERING

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).

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).

"Then Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior!'"
Luke 1:46-47

MAGNIFICAT

My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God
My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God

Music by Flo Paris Oakes
as recorded by Rain for
Roots on Waiting Song.
©1999 Flo Paris Music.

For He who is mighty
Has done great things for me
Holy holy
Holy holy
Holy holy
Is His name

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

Children, age 4 through 2nd grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson, activity, and fellowship. Pick up from the Chapel. www.wepc.org/grow/children

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 19:14

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (10:30am)

Gather round ye children come
Listen to the old, old Story
Of the power of death undone
By an Infant born of glory
Son of God, Son of Man

Andrew Peterson ©2005
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GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, ³a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Mark 1:1-3

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

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."

Luke 22:7-8, 14-20, 29-30

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.

Almighty and merciful Father, we come to you at Advent with the brokenness of the world in our eyes, the cries of injustice, loneliness, and sadness in our ears, and the rebellion and failure of sin in our hearts. O promised Christ: We are a world at war; our peace depends on Your coming. We are an unfulfilled, longing people; our hope depends upon Your coming. We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on Your coming. Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, forgive our sins, comfort our hearts, and lift our eyes to look for Your glorious return with hope and joy. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your warfare is ended;
Your sins are pardoned;
The penalty for your rebellion is paid.

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

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly-minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords, in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away

4. At His feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord Most High

"Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling." Zechariah 2:13

Liturgy of St. James, 5th century, trans. Gerard Moultrie (1864); Tune: PICARDY, traditional French Carol (17th century) Music from Picardy (French carol melody); Arrangement: High Street Hymns, ©2007 Ross Byrd. Used by permission.

"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

Kate Bluett | Isaac Wardell |
Paul Zach. ©2021 Integrity
Worship Music/PG Songs and
Hymns/ASCAP.
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MAKE A WAY

1. Come, Son of God, and make us new
Light of the world, our hearts renew
Hope in our inner darkness lies
Oh, healing Sun of Justice rise

2. Come, Promised since our Eden's end
Child of the woman, come defend
Long have we felt the serpent's sting
Come, strike his head, and mercy
bring...

*Oh make a way! Open wide the gates
Oh make a way!
Through the sorrow and the pain
Oh make a way!
Though the road is dark and winding
Oh come, come*

3. Come, Son of Man
To show the way
Oh, through the tears
May we see the day
So long did we in darkness dwell
Come down to break
The chains of hell...

Oh come, make a way
Oh come, make a way
Oh come, make a way
Oh come, come

*"I count everything as loss
because of the surpassing
worth of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord." Philippians 3:8*

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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IN CHRIST ALONE

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought
And storm
What heights of love
What depths of peace
When fears are stilled
When strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood
Of Christ

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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. Trey & Jen Wickham, Kristy Elliott, Rick Hepner, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Donald Smith and Jake Bruning led this morning's congregational singing. Elder Rick McWhorter and Deacon Chris May managed today's audio and video live stream. AJ Anonick 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

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 11 & 18 / 9:15AM / Chapel

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

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).

Third Saturday Mature Singles Fellowship

www.wepc.org/MASfellowship

December 17 / 4-5:30PM / WEPC Library

Join us for fellowship, devotional study, prayer, and an optional dinner. Contact: Janice Sharp (loljanice727@gmail.com)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

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:** 9AM
- **Youth Group:** Wednesdays / Youth Lounge
6-7:30 PM--Middle School
7:30-9 PM--High School
- **Youth Group Christmas Party**
Wednesday / December 14 / 6-8 PM

MISSIONS

Amelia Church Plant

Do you live in or near Amelia County, VA? Are you or someone you know interested in hearing more about a new Presbyterian Church in America church plant in Amelia County? Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

African American Church-Planter Fund (AACFF)

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.

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 Rohrer (6806 University Drive 23229). Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Matt Wilks, Stephen Hunn, & Bryan Meeks

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 12/4/22):

Operating gifts YTD: \$895,206.62

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$929,093.39

% of expected budget received: 96.35%

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)

End-of-Year Contributions

Please drop off any 2022 tax-deductable donations by 12PM on 12/30 or make sure they are postmarked 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.

Inclement Weather Reminder

For updates on closings and delays, visit wepc.org or call the office at (804) 741-6562. You may also visit the "Community Closings" page at nbc12.com. In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, WEPC will meet for the 10:30 AM service.

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

There are 3 ways to donate to our food pantry:

- Use the **CURRENT NEEDS** list from the website.
- Join a **FOOD ITEM TEAM** described on the website for list-free giving.
- Designate **MONETARY GIFTS** to the food pantry.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at WEPC

Advent 2022 Devotional

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

Children's Advent Devotional

Follow along with the Jesus Storybook Bible, 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!

Advent Sundays in the Psalms

December 11 & 18 / 9:15AM / Chapel

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

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 using [this current list](#).
- **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 7PM Christmas Eve service, 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 (nursery provided on January 1). 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: