



West End
presbyterian church

The Fourth 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.

THE GLORY OF THE LORD

"Those infant hands
Shall burst our bands,
And work out our salvation;
Strangle the crooked serpent,
Destroy his works forever,
And open set the heavenly gate
To every true believer."

--John Wesley

"O come, Thou Key of David come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery."

--Latin antiphons, 12th century

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98:1-3

Today's Call to Worship was
read by Vuso Mkandawire.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

**His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

INVOCATION

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*from The Nicene Creed,
4th century*

SONG OF ADORATION

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

1. Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity

2. Holy, holy, holy
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim
Falling down before Thee
Who wert and art
And evermore shalt be

3. Holy, holy, holy
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in power
In love and purity

4. Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea
Holy holy holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity

"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!'" Revelation 4:8

John Bacchus Dykes |
Reginald Heber.
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 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.

PRESENTATION OF New MEMBERS (10:30am)

Stan & Grace Cover
Metijwok (Mimi) & Teayam Deng

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30am)

Metijwok (Mimi) & Teayam Deng

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

*"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.*

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).

WHO IS THIS, SO WEAK AND HELPLESS

1. Who is this, so weak and helpless
Child of lowly Hebrew maid
Rudely in a stable sheltered
Coldly in a manger laid
Tis the Lord of all creation
Who this wondrous path has trod
He is Lord from everlasting
And to everlasting God

2. Who is this, a Man of Sorrows
Walking sadly life's hard way
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway
Tis our God, our glorious Savior
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing
Where no tear can dim the eye

3. Who is this? Behold him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground
Who is this, despised, rejected
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound
Tis our God, Who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne

4. Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world
Scoffs and scorns
Numbered with the malefactors
Torn with nails
And crowned with thorns
Tis our God Who lives forever
Mid the shining ones on high
In the glorious golden city
Reigning everlastingly

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."
Luke 2:7*

©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Words: William How. Music: Christopher Miner. Used by permission.

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

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

*"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*

Andrew Peterson ©2005
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SCRIPTURE Reading

Isaiah 40:3-5

³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

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

Sermon

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

from Mark 14:16-25

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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 God, every day we are reminded that we fall short of Your glory: You are strong; we are blown about by every whim. You call for justice; we play favorites and prefer man-made comfort. You are holy through and through; our best efforts are marred by sin and cannot save us. Oh how we need a Savior to ransom us from bondage to sin! Thank You for providing exactly what we need in Jesus. Oh how we need continued renewal in Your image! Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to continue Your work in Your Church. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to rest in Your grace. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

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

First Communion: Mimi & Teayam Deng (10:30AM)

Mimi & Teayam recently met with the Elders, who heard their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Deng family to receive communion first.

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.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS US BY HIS GRACE

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE

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 5PM Records. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa |
Michael Bleecker ©2012
Bleecker Publishing.
CCLI #708363

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

1. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us
2. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand
3. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold
4. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord, He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

“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

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him born the King of angels...

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God, glory in the highest...

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. Elder Tom Krieger, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Georgia Collier, Jamison Taggart, and Troy Arnold led this morning's congregational singing. Jay Smith and Scott Hoyer managed today's audio and video live stream. Michael Whitman 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: January 2023 Deconstruction

www.wepc.org/adults

Jan 8, 15, 22, & 29 / Rm 810 / 9AM

When churches fail, pastors fall, and doubts rise, it is tempting to dunk your faith. What is driving the trend to "deconstruct" one's faith and how can we care for those who have left the church because of hypocrisy and sin? How can we build up our own faith? Join Pastor Joe Brown and Brandon Blevins for a four-week series.

Contact: Joe Brown (joe@wepc.org)

Wednesday Night Fellowship: January 2023 The Believing Life

www.wepc.org/adults

Jan 11 - March 29 / Chapel / 6-7:30 PM

Believing is hard, and following Jesus changes how we live. Whether you consider yourself to be a long-time Christian or a skeptic, The Believing Life is designed to help you grow in and through the power of the Gospel.

Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

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).

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9AM
***No meeting on 12/25 or 1/1**
- **Youth Group:** Wednesdays / Youth Lounge
***No meeting on 12/21 or 12/28 - will resume on 1/4**
6-7:30 PM--Middle School
7:30-9 PM--High School

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

***No nursery or Children's Worship on 12/25**
***Nursery provided on 1/1 at 10:30AM ONLY**
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)

***Will resume on 1/18**

Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM / Room 25

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)

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Ben Bacon, Davison Long, Warren Kempf,
& Ed Bowman

Prayer & Support Group

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

Counseling

Lara Finnie, Licensed Professional Counselor at WEPC, is available by appointment. Visit [Abiding Branches](#) for more information.

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 12/11/22):

Operating gifts YTD: \$945,305.66
Forecasted gifts YTD: \$985,478.00
% of expected budget received: 95.92%

Inquirer's Weekend

www.wepc.org/inquirersweekend

January 27-29

Join us to learn about our church history, beliefs, ministries, and how to become a member at WEPC. Contact: Karen (karen@wepc.org)

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.

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!

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.

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: