



West End
presbyterian church

Christmas Day

We are 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.

*"You will find a baby
wrapped in cloths and
lying in a manger"*
Luke 2:12

Cecil F. Alexander (1848);
Tune: IRBY (1849),
Henry John Gauntlett.
Public domain

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

GOD WITH US

"Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span;
Summer in winter; day in night;
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little One, whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heav'n to earth."
--Richard Crashaw

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little Child

3. And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above
And He leads His children on
To the place where He has gone

2. He came down
To earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall
With the poor, and meek, and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:8-10

The voice of Your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people;

**He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared His holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.**

INVOCATION

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.

SONG OF ADORATION

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 the LORD,
all the earth." Psalm 98:4*

Isaac Watts, 1719.
Public Domain

ISAIAH 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

LUKE 2:8-14

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." And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

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

Attributed to Francis Wade,
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...

3. Yea, Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing...

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*"Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace to men on whom his
favor rests." Luke 2:14*

Traditional French Carol,
trans. 1862; Tune: GLORIA,
French Carol (18th
century). Public Domain

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains...

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?...

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him, whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King...

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.

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).

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. 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"

3. Come, Desire of Nations come
Fix in us Thy humble home
Rise, the Woman's conquering Seed
Bruise in us the Serpent's head
Adam's likeness now efface
Stamp Thine image in its place
Second Adam, from above
Reinstate us in Thy love
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

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).

"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

CHILDREN'S Message

SCRIPTURE Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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 Matthew 26:17-29

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, You alone are our Maker, Who delights to dwell with the broken and contrite. Jesus Christ, You are our Redeemer, Who alone satisfies divine wrath by His perfect sacrifice. Holy Spirit, You are our only Comforter, Who grants us repentance and faith. We confess before You and one another that we have sinned against You in thought and word and deed; that we have not loved You with all our heart and soul, mind and strength; that we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. O Lord, with You there is forgiveness, therefore you are feared. We beseech You, O God, to forgive what we have been, to change what we are, and by Your mercy direct what we are becoming; so that we may hereafter walk in the way of Your commands. Forgive and sanctify us, O Lord. Amen.

Silent 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.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

II Corinthians 5:21

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

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon His
shoulder" Isaiah 9:6*

Horatius Bonar (1857); Tune:
Ryan DeLange (2016). Used
by permission. CCLI #708363

HE HAS COME, THE CHRIST OF GOD

1. He has come, the Christ of God
Left for us His glad abode
Stooping from His throne of bliss
To this darksome wilderness
He has come, the Prince of Peace
Come to bid our sorrows cease
Come to scatter with His light
All the shadows of our night

2. He, the mighty King, has come
Making this poor earth His home
Come to bear our sin's sad load
Son of David, Son of God
He has come, whose Name of grace
Speaks deliverance to our race
Left for us His glad abode
Son of Mary, Son of God

3. Unto us a Child is born
Ne'er has earth beheld a morn
Among all the morns of time
Half so glorious in its prime
Unto us a Son is given
He has come from God's own heaven
Bringing with Him from above
Holy peace and holy love

*"They spread the word
concerning what had been
told them about this child."
Luke 2:17*

Traditional African-American
Spiritual

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light....

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth....

3. Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn....

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 Joe Brown led worship. Pastor Kevin Greene, Jill Wiebe-King, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and Suzie Bird led this morning's congregational singing. Ross Bruning and Chris Malak managed today's audio and video live stream. Scott Dicken managed the in-house video system. Children's Ministry Director Audrey Snyder gave the Children's Message.

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 12/28 - 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, Sunday School or Children's Worship on 12/25*

**Nursery provided on 1/1 at 10:30AM, no Sunday School or Children's Worship 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)

CHRISTMAS at WEPC

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Sean Winterhalter, Ed Bowman, Karl Kuder,
& Bill Phillips

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 12/18/22):

Operating gifts YTD: \$1,149,954.51
Forecasted gifts YTD: \$1,067,016.67
% of expected budget received: 107.77%

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.

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.

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: