



West End
presbyterian church

**The Second Sunday after
Christmas & Approaching the
Beginning of Epiphany**

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. Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6, after the close of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long-awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations. Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and "God with us," and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

LET THE EARTH REJOICE

"Let the world rejoice in those who believe, for whose salvation He came...this is the day which the Lord has made, and the Lord Himself is the bright Day of our heart. Let us walk in His light; let us exalt and be glad in Him." --*Augustine*

"What shall it be, when all the children of God, who in different ages and countries have been scattered abroad, shall be all gathered together, and enter into that glorious and eternal rest provided for them--when there shall not be one trace of sin or sorrow remaining, not one discordant note be heard, nothing to disturb, or defile, or lighten the never-ceasing joy! Such is the hope to which God has called us: that day will surely come."
--*John Newton*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,**

but the Lord rises upon you
and His glory appears over you.

**Nations will come to Your light,
and kings to the brightness of Your dawn.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS 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

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.

New Testament Reading

I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Revelation 7:9-12

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 orphans, for 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 that 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. **Good Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

STORIES FROM THE CHURCH:

Rashel Amuda

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).

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).

THIS IS THE CHRIST

1. Good news from heaven the angels bring
Glad tidings to the earth they sing
To us this day a Child is given
To crown us with the joy of heaven...

*This is the Christ, our God and Lord
Who in all need shall aid afford
He will Himself our Savior be
And from our sins will set us free*

2. All hail Thou noble Guest this morn
Whose love did not the sinner scorn
In my distress Thou come'st to me
What thanks shall I return to Thee...

3. Were earth a thousand times as fair
Beset with gold and jewels rare
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle Lord for Thee
Praise God upon His heavenly throne
Who gave to us His only Son
For this His hosts on joyful wing
A blessed New Year of mercy sing...

*"Fear not, for behold, I bring
you good news of great joy."
Luke 2:10*

Martin Luther (1535), trans.
Arthru Russell (1848);
Tune: Sandra McCracken,
© 2010 Drink Your Tea
Music (ASCAP); Used by
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SCRIPTURE Reading

Psalm 96

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ²Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! ⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! ¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; ¹²let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

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

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

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Lord, You have prepared Your salvation in the presence of all peoples. Yet, we confess that we have not followed the light of Your Word. We have not been consoled by Your presence, and have sought comforts of our own design. We have not sought Your will, or trusted Your Good News to be good. We have failed to rejoice at Your Son's coming and refused His peace on earth. We have hoped for little from You, and the very thoughts of our hearts are revealed in the light of the glory of Your great mercy toward us.

Silence

Forgive our unbelief, and renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we might eagerly worship You, that we may watch and wait, and once more find the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to be our greatest joy. 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

Rejoice and exult with all your heart...The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

Zephaniah 3:14-15

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

*"All that the Father gives
me will come to me, and
whoever comes to me I will
never cast out." John 6:37*

Charlotte Elliott (1836); Tune:
WOODWORTH, William
B. Bradbury (1849). Arr. by
Norton Hall Band.
Used by permission.

JUST AS I AM

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou biddest me
Come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee, Whose blood
Can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many conflicts, many doubts
Fightings, fears within, without
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

4. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon
Cleanse, relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among
those with whom he is
pleased." Luke 2:14*

Dustin Kensrue ©2012 We
Are Younger We Are Faster
Music. Used by permission.
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ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ...

*All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ*

2. His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him, the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ...

3. When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ...

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
"He has done great things"
We will say together
We will feast, and weep no more

1. We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up...

2. In the dark of night
Before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning
Oh how long
O God of Jacob, be my strength...

3. Every vow we've broken
And betrayed
You are the faithful One
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom...

"For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more."
Isaiah 30:19

Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore © 2015
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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."

A team is available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the 10:30 AM service.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Robin Huff, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and Deacon Karl Kuder led this morning's congregational singing. Andy Becker and Aaron Suttan 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: 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 / Feb 25-26, 2023

Early Bird Registration ends TODAY! Price increase begins January 2.

Join us at Roslyn Retreat Center 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 / Youth Lounge
***Resumes on 1/8**
- **Youth Group:** Wednesdays / Youth Lounge
***Resumes 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 Sunday School or Children's Worship today. Both ministries resume on 1/8.**

***Nursery IS PROVIDED today during the 10:30 AM service. Nursery will resume at both services on 1/8.**

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

www.wepc.org/outreach/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)

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

Rick McMahon, Matt Mailloux, Davison Long,
& Jake Porter

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 12/25/22):

Operating gifts YTD: \$1,262,905.95
Forecasted gifts YTD: \$1,137,303.37
% of expected budget received: 111.04%

Inquirer's Weekend

www.wepc.org/inquirersweekend

January 27-29, 2023

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)

Night to Shine RVA

<https://nighttoshinerva.com>

February 10, 2023

Night to Shine is a way to share Jesus' love through a prom night experience for individuals with special needs. WEPC has partnered with 10+ churches to host Night to Shine RVA since 2015. Locations this year include Cool Spring Baptist and HOPE Church. Volunteers are needed to serve as buddies and more! Learn more and volunteer [here](#).

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.

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: