



## Worship Bulletin

Dear Ones,

Is God ever late in answering your prayers? Is God like everything and everyone else in our world, under time constraints that sometimes get away from us?

When you pray, and you pray, and you pray, does God seem slow in answering?

We will talk about that this morning.

Warmly,  
Steve

### God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

#### The Fifth Sunday of Easter

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord. The Church now lives as those who are “risen with Christ,” living under His rule.

*The tapestry at the front of the WEPC sanctuary is the traditional liturgical color of white for this 50-day season of Easter. The tapestry will return to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled “[Psalm 148](#),” and was created by a team of WEPC artists.*

#### Preparation for Worship

*Let Your Ear be Attentive*

“And the Church must be forever building, and always decaying, and always being restored.” --T.S. Elliot

“Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are Anger and Courage: Anger at the way things are and Courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.” --Augustine of Hippo

“In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity...But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.”  
--C.S. Lewis

#### Call to Worship

*Psalm 131. A Song of Ascents. Of David.*

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;  
my eyes are not raised too high;

**I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.**

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

**O Israel, hope in the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

#### Invocation

#### Song of Adoration

##### A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabbaoth, His name, from age to age the same,  
and He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through Him Who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;  
His Kingdom is forever.

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” -Psalm 46:1  
Based on Psalm 46; Martin Luther (1529). Public Domain.*

#### Welcome

*We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are “visiting” our church for the first time, we encourage you to send us an email at [mail@wepc.org](mailto:mail@wepc.org) to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.*

#### New Testament Reading

*Hebrews 7:22-28*

Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

## Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

Adapted from Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 103 (1647)

What do we mean when we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"?

**When we pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven", we ask that God, by His grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to His will in all things,<sup>2</sup> as the angels do in heaven.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 6:10; <sup>2</sup> Psalm 67, 119:36; Matt. 26:39; II Sam. 15:25, Job 1:21;

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 103:20-21

## The Ministry of Prayer

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Offering

If participation in the offering is part of your weekly worship, please either mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quiocasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229) or visit our website ([www.wepc.org/resources/giving](http://www.wepc.org/resources/giving)) for online giving options.

## Song of Praise

### HIS LOVE IS MY RESTING PLACE (PSALM 23)

The Lord is my Guide and Friend;  
I rest well when I'm with Him.  
No hunger or thirst or anxious need  
When my Lord is here with me...

*His love is my resting place.  
My Shepherd is kind, and full of grace;  
The arms of my Lord are strong and safe.  
His love is my resting place.*

The shadow of death may fall  
With darkness upon my way.  
But always my Lord is near to me;  
His love is my resting place...

Your goodness will be my feast;  
Your kindness will overflow.  
And always Your love will follow me,  
And Your house will be my home...

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." -Psalm 23:1  
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## God the Son Renews Us through His Word

### Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup>The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislew, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, <sup>2</sup>that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

<sup>4</sup>As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. <sup>7</sup>We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' <sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

### Sermon

Each Sunday, Worship Notes with the Scripture text, study questions, and recordings are posted at [www.wepc.org/worship/sermons](http://www.wepc.org/worship/sermons).

## God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

### Confession of Sin

Psalm 139:1-2, 7, 23-24

**You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.  
You know when I sit and when I rise;  
You perceive my thoughts from afar.  
Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from Your presence?  
Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

*Silent Confession of Sin*

## Words of Encouragement

*1 Timothy 1:15*

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

## Songs of Response to God's Grace

### GATHER THEM IN

We wait for You to testify,  
To hold the kingdoms to account.  
Your righteous justice shall not fail  
All those who trust in Your name.

*You will gather them in;  
You will bring, bring them home,  
King of all Kings,  
Lord of all Lords.*

Sing out, sing out, ye daughters of Zion  
And shout aloud, O Israel.  
Be glad, rejoice with all your heart;  
He has removed your punishment.

*He will gather us in;  
He will bring, bring us home,  
King of all Kings,  
Lord of all Lords.*

*"I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes." -Zephaniah 3:20  
Peter La Grand (2008). Used by permission. CCLI #708363*

### PSALM 126

Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter;  
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord!  
Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping,  
Lord, help us keep sowing  
the seeds of Your Kingdom  
for the day You will reap them!  
Your sheaves we will carry,  
Lord, please do not tarry!  
All those who sow weeping  
Will go out with songs of joy!*

The nations will say: "He has done great things!"  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord!  
Restore us, O Lord!

*"Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy." -Psalm 126:5  
Isaac Wardell; ©2012 Bifrost Arts Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363*

## ALL THINGS NEW

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

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.*

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

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

*"Behold, I am making all things new." -Revelation 21:5  
Horatius Bonar (1779); Tune: Clint Wells, ©2010 Red Mountain Music.  
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## DOXOLOGY

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

*"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." -Psalm 150:6  
Thomas Ken (1709); Tune: "Old 100th", Louis Bourgeois (1551)*

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." -Romans 12:12-13

## Benediction

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**Pastor Steve Shelby** preached today's sermon. Worship was led by **Pastor Kevin Greene**. **Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered, Sarah Jurewicz, and Pastor Kevin Greene** led this morning's congregational singing. **Jeremy D'Errico** and **Elder & Youth Ministry Director Tim Cornwell** managed today's audio and video live stream.

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## Q & A with Pastor Steve Shelby:

Join Steve this morning after the worship service, as he responds live to some of your text inquiries related to the worship service. We welcome questions related to the sermon, as well as general responses to something that encouraged your heart during the service. We plan on the Q & A lasting approximately 10-15 minutes. Please text **804-608-9372** with your questions and encouragements.