



# Order of Worship

Dear Ones,

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Warmly,

Steve

## God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

### The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: *Ordinary Time*

We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time." Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in His glory as King of all.

### Preparation for Worship

*Reform & Remember*

"Posterity, not just prosperity, is the promise of God to Abraham: countless descendants and blessings poured out on entire nations not yet born. Posterity, not just prosperity is God's promise to David, a succession of sons in his line on the throne. And posterity was what the average Israelite prayed for as well – 'may you see your children's children!' – a wish that before death one would see the evidence that shalom and abundance would continue in one's own line after death. There is nothing quick about shalom. True shalom endures." -*Andy Crouch*

"If our religion be of our own getting or making, it will perish; and the sooner it goes, the better; but if our religion is a matter of God's giving, we know that He shall never take back what He gives, and that, if He has commenced to work in us by His grace, He will never leave it unfinished." -*Charles H. Spurgeon*

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus."  
-*Philippians 1:6*

### Call to Worship

*Psalms 98:1-3*

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 His salvation known  
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.

**He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

### Invocation

### Song of Adoration

#### AMAZING LOVE

My Lord, what love is this  
That pays so dearly,  
That I, the guilty one,  
May go free!

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice,  
The Son of God given for me.  
My debt he pays, and my death he dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.*

And so they watched him die,  
Despised, rejected.  
But oh, the blood he shed,  
Flowed for me!

And now, this love of Christ,  
Shall flow like rivers.  
Come wash your guilt away,  
Live again!

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." -Romans 5:8*  
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### Welcome

*We are glad you have joined us this morning! If you are visiting our church for the first time, we encourage you to use our online "Keeping in Touch" form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.*

### New Testament Reading

*Hebrews 8:6-13*

Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

## Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 178 (1563)

What is prayer?

**Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God,<sup>1</sup> in the name of Christ,<sup>2</sup> by the help of His Spirit;<sup>3</sup> with confession of our sins,<sup>4</sup> and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 62:8; <sup>2</sup> John 16:23; <sup>3</sup> Romans 8:26; <sup>4</sup> Psalm 32:5-6, Daniel 9:4;

<sup>5</sup> Philippians 4:6

## 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 place your offering in one of offering plates near the rear Sanctuary doors, mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229), or visit [www.wepc.org/giving](http://www.wepc.org/giving) for online giving options.*

## Song of Praise

### STEADFAST

I will build my house whether storm or drought  
On the rock that does not move.  
I will set my hope in Your love, O Lord,  
And Your faithfulness will prove.  
You are steadfast, steadfast.

By the word You spoke, all the starry host  
Are called out by name each night.  
In Your watchful care, I will rest secure  
As you lead us with Your light...

*You are steadfast, steadfast.*

*You are steadfast, steadfast.*

I will not trust in the strength of kings;  
On Your promise I will stand.  
I will shout for joy; I will raise my voice,  
Hallelujah to the Lamb...

*You are steadfast, steadfast.*

*You are steadfast, steadfast.*

*"For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy." -Psalm 61:3  
Joshua Silverberg, Leslie Jordan, Sandra McCracken © Capitol CMG Amplifier  
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## Backyard Children's Worship (10:30 AM)

*Children, age 3 through 5th grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for an outdoor Bible Lesson, activity, and fellowship on the WEPC playground. Pick-up at the end of the service on the playground. RSVP required weekly.  
[www.wepc.org/grow/children](http://www.wepc.org/grow/children)*

## God the Son Renews Us through His Word

### Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 13:1-31

<sup>1</sup> On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people. And in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, <sup>2</sup> for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. <sup>3</sup> As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

<sup>4</sup> Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, <sup>5</sup> prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. <sup>6</sup> While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king <sup>7</sup> and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. <sup>8</sup> And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. <sup>9</sup> Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

<sup>10</sup> I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field. <sup>11</sup> So I confronted the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. <sup>12</sup> Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. <sup>13</sup> And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan the son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah, for they were considered reliable, and their duty was to distribute to their brothers. <sup>14</sup> Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw in Judah people trading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. <sup>16</sup> Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself! <sup>17</sup> Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? <sup>18</sup> Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

<sup>19</sup> As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. <sup>21</sup> But I warned them and said to them,

"Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

<sup>23</sup> In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. <sup>24</sup> And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. <sup>25</sup> And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. <sup>26</sup> Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. <sup>27</sup> Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?"

<sup>28</sup> And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me. <sup>29</sup> Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

<sup>30</sup> Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; <sup>31</sup> and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits.

Remember me, O my God, for good.

## 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

**Almighty and merciful Father, You created us for communion with Yourself and one another; but we rebelled, and made enemies of our Maker and each other. We have despised Your providence, doubted Your love, and become a law unto ourselves. We believed that human wrath would work the righteousness of God, and so have taken matters into our own hands. Still, You remembered us, our God, for good. In Your tender mercy You gave Your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; He made there a full atonement for our sin, offering once for all the sacrifice of Himself. We thank You that Your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, and deeper than all of our sins. Grant us repentance and faith in Jesus Christ that we may desire what is good and gladly live in union with Him. Amen.**

*Silent Confession of Sin*

### Words of Encouragement

*II Corinthians 5:17*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

## 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.

*"At that time 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," says the LORD. -Zeph. 3:20.*  
Peter La Grand (2008). Used by permission. CCLI #708363

### GOD WHO SAVES

There is life in the blood of the Lamb who was slain.  
There is power, there is power in His name.  
There is love pouring out of the wounds that were made,  
Pouring out, pouring over our shame...

*So praise the God who saves!  
Praise the God who bled!  
Praise the God who was nailed to a tree,  
And wore our sins upon His head.*

There is truth in his body, raised that third day.  
There is joy in a stone rolled away.  
There is hope pouring out of the tomb where he lay,  
Pouring out, pouring over the grave...

*"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." -2 Corinthians 5:21.*  
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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

*After the 9 AM service, our Elders are available for prayer in the West Foyer, and at the foot of the Sanctuary stage after the 10:30 AM service.*

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*Pastor Steve Shelby* preached today's sermon. *Pastor Kevin Greene* led worship. *Chris Newlin, Erin Bouknight, Becca Wethered, and Jason Weippert* led this morning's congregational singing. *Elder Gordon Kuhfuss, Greg Stiles, Rob MacBride, and Deacon Tim Andrews* managed today's audio and video live stream. *AJ Anonick* and *Clara Bender* managed the in-house video system.

## Announcements:

### Outdoor Communion Worship Services

Sundays, Sept 13 & Oct 11, 5 PM, WEPC Side Parking Lot

[www.wepc.org/outdoorservice](http://www.wepc.org/outdoorservice)

**Yard Groups:** Enrollment now open!

[www.wepc.org/yard-groups](http://www.wepc.org/yard-groups)

### Children's Ministry: Backyard Children's Worship

Sundays, 10:30 AM, RSVP required weekly

[www.wepc.org/grow/children](http://www.wepc.org/grow/children)

### Youth Ministry Fall 2020

Community Groups, Youth Group, & Parent Gatherings

[www.wepc.org/grow/youth](http://www.wepc.org/grow/youth)

### Prayer Partners needed for ESL Ministry

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM, beginning Sept 15

Contact: [Heather Glissman](mailto:heatheresl@wepc.org) (heatheresl@wepc.org)

### Neighborhood Learning Adventures: Volunteers needed

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:30-11:30 AM, beginning Sept 15

Contact: [Bryan and Emily Meeks](mailto:learningadventures@wepc.org) (learningadventures@wepc.org)

### Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM, beginning Sept 16

[www.wepc.org/wednesdaynightfellowship](http://www.wepc.org/wednesdaynightfellowship)

### Women's Ministry: S.O.W. (Sisters Of WEPC) Together

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM, beginning Oct 7; registration open

[www.wepc.org/grow/women](http://www.wepc.org/grow/women)

### Men's Ministry: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

Mondays, 6:00-7:30 PM, beginning Oct 12

[www.wepc.org/grow/men](http://www.wepc.org/grow/men)

### Inquirer's Weekend

Oct. 23-25: Join us to learn about WEPC and church membership.

[www.wepc.org/inquirersweekend](http://www.wepc.org/inquirersweekend)

### Tutoring Ministry: Volunteers needed

Tutors and students meet one-on-one for one hour a week.

[www.wepc.org/tutoring](http://www.wepc.org/tutoring)

**Food Pantry needs:** [www.wepc.org/foodpantry](http://www.wepc.org/foodpantry)

In the event that an attender of a worship service tests positive for COVID-19, WEPC will contact the Virginia Department of Health and follow the advised protocols for notifying attenders who may have been exposed to the virus.