

Dear Ones,

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:30-31).

Warmly,

Steve

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Twenty-fourth 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

To Live Christ, To Die Gain

"Christ, says the Apostle, shall be magnified in my body by life, for to me to live is Christ.'

Christ and life were one and the same thing to him...

The preaching of Christ the business of my life.

The presence of Christ the cheer of my life.

The image of Christ the crown of my life.

The Spirit of Christ the life of my life.

The love of Christ the power of my life.

The will of Christ the law of my life.

And the glory of Christ the end of my life."

-John Eadie

"It is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there."

-C.S. Lewis

Call to Worship

Job 19:25-27; Psalm 124:8

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another.

How my heart yearns within me!

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Invocation

Order of Worship

Song of Adoration

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day, By His love and power controlling all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, So that all may see I triumph only through His power.

May the peace of God, my Father, rule my life in everything, That I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea; Him exalting, self-abasing, this is victory.

May His beauty rest upon me, as I seek the lost to win; And may they forget the channel, seeing only Him.

May we run the race before us, strong and brave to face the foe, Looking only unto Jesus as we onward go.

"Let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 2:5 Kate B. Wilkinson (1925); Tune: ST. LEONARDS; Public Domain.

The Ministry of Prayer

Psalm 56

To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil. They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life. For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?

Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.

In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.

For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

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 for online giving options.

Song of Praise

Give Me Jesus

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.

And when I am alone, and when I am alone, And when I am alone, give me Jesus.

And when I come to die, and when I come to die, And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." -Lamentations 3:22-23 African-American Spiritual; Public Domain.

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. (In case of inclement weather, Children's Worship will meet in the WEPC Chapel.) www.wepc.org/grow/children

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:21-26

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Sermon

Each Sunday, Worship Notes with the Scripture text, study questions, and recordings are posted at www.wepc.org/sermons.

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, by the power of Your Spirit, You raised Jesus from the grave and crowned Him Lord of all. You have graciously poured out that same Spirit upon Your people. We confess that we have not bowed before our Lord or acknowledged His rule in our lives. We have often persisted in ways that lead to death, and failed to give Him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin. Give us grace to find our lives in Christ alone. Strengthen us to take up our cross in following Jesus, who rules the world and is Head of the Church, His Body. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

John 5:24

Jesus said "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

Songs of Response to God's Grace

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee; Destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my All shall be. Perish ev'ry fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known; Yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too. Human hearts and looks deceive me, Thou art not like man untrue. And while Thou shalt shall smile upon me, God of wisdom love and might, Foes may hate and friends may shun me; show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to Thy breast. Life with trials hard may press me, Heav'n will bring me sweeter rest. O 'tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me. O 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go then, earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn, and pain! You redeem our pain for pleasure, with Thy favor loss is gain. I have called Thee, "Abba, Father", wan'dring hearts are stayed on Thee. Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care. Joy to find in ev'ry station, something still to do or bear. Think what Spirit dwells within thee; what a Father's smile is thine. What a Savior died to win thee, child of heav'n, shouldst thou repine?

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer. Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there. Soon shall close they earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days. Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
-Mark 8:34

Henry F. Lyte (1824); Tune ©2001 Bill Moore Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me. And like a flood, His mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow; the sun forbear to shine. But God who called me here below will be forever mine, Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
-Ephesians 2:8-9

Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio © 2006 sixsteps Music Used by permission. CCLI #708363

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

Our Elders are available for prayer in the West Foyer following both services.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Elder Chris Newlin, Worship Arts Coordinator Becca Wethered, Hill Shore, Harrison Weippert, and Troy Arnold led this morning's congregational singing. Elder Gordon Kuhfuss, Jon Greenhill, and Deacon Tim Andrews managed today's audio and video live stream. Scott Dicken and Nathan Reid managed the in-house video system.

Announcements (listed alphabetically)

Advent & Christmas at WEPC www.wepc.org/adventchristmas

Children's Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/children
Backyard Children's Worship & upcoming Christmas activities

Congregational Meeting: TODAY, 12 PM, Sanctuary

Presentation of WEPC's budget & voting on Terms of Call for Pastors

Food Pantry needs: www.wepc.org/foodpantry
www.wepc.org/communion
2nd Sunday/month, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Tutoring Ministry: Volunteers needed www.wepc.org/tutoring Tutors and students meet one-on-one for one hour a week.

WEPC Community Preschool www.wepc.org/preschool Interested in being a substitute teacher? Contact: Casey Zollinhofer

Wrap Around Foster Care www.wepc.org/fostercare
Learn more about the WEPC foster care team that is forming.

Young Singles Fellowship <u>www.wepc.org/youngsingles</u>
Join us for our monthly luncheon on Dec. 6; RSVP required

Youth Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/youth
Pop-up Pizza and Movie Night & Youth Group

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.