



Order of Worship

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The First Sunday of Advent

In the Christian year, Advent is a time that helps us to remember Christ's first coming and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His second coming when He will return to redeem His creation and exercise His rule with all power and authority.

Preparation for Worship

Believe & Suffer

"And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing." -Edmund Sears "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (1868)

"The exclusiveness of Christian belief, and their conviction that Jesus was not just a god but the God, put [early] Christians on a collision course with nearly everyone in that religiously pluralistic society... Christians appeared to be a threat to the whole social order. Historians explain that early Christians were, as a result, often disinherited, excluded from government jobs, cut out of the best business relationships, and occasionally physically abused and imprisoned." -Tim Keller

Call to Worship

Revelation 1:5-7

Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth,

Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father;

To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him,
and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him.**

Even so. Amen.

Invocation

10th Century Advent Prayer

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come.

Rescue and protect us from the threatening perils of our sins by Your might;

for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Song of Adoration

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light;

O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

Come, o come; come, o come; come, o come, to us.

When this old world drew on toward night, You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon'. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" -Revelation 22:20

Words: Anonymous, 7th Century; Additional lyrics: Alex Mejias; Music: Alex Mejias © 2009 5PM Records

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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 "[Keep in Touch](#)" form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.

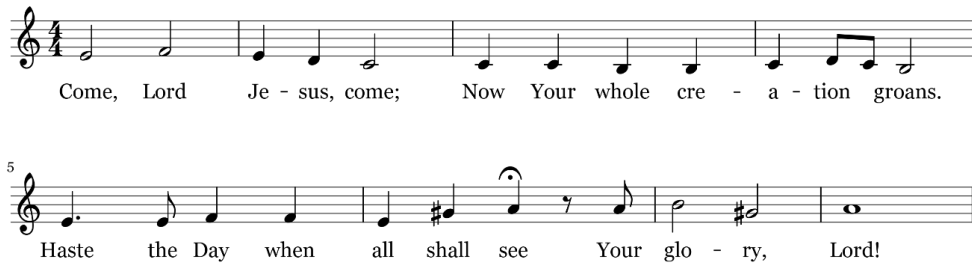
The Ministry of Prayer

"Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20) was an early Christian cry for the personal return of Jesus Christ. The Church has long understood these exclamations to be the fundamental Advent prayer of longing for His appearing.

Come, Lord Jesus

"Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" Revelation 22:20

Kevin Greene and Becca Wethered, Advent 2020



Psalm 14. To the choirmaster. Of David.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?

There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer our spirits by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord, and turn the key to heaven's door.
Be Thou our comforter and guide, and lead us to the Father's side.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall by His Word our darkness dispel.

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede; Thy sacrifice, our only plea.
The judgment we no longer fear; Thy precious blood has brought us near.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell.

O come, Thou King of nations, bring an end to all our suffering.
Bid every pain and sorrow cease, and reign now as our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell.

"They will call Him Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us'." -Matthew 1:23

Latin Hymn (12th century), trans. John Mason Neale (1851); Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (13th century)

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God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:29-30

²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Sermon

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

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, every day we are reminded that we fall short of Your glory:
You are strong; we are blown about by every whim.
You call for justice; we play favorites and prefer our comfort.
You are holy through and through; our best efforts are marred by sin and cannot save us.
Oh, how we need a Savior to ransom us from bondage to sin!
Thank You for Jesus, our full atonement.
Oh how we need continued renewal in Your image!
Thank You for the Holy Spirit who convicts, sanctifies, and leads us into all truth.
Forgive us our sins, and lead us to rest in Your grace. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your warfare is ended;
Your sins are pardoned; the penalty for your rebellion is paid.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord; My spirit rejoices in God.
My soul magnifies the Lord; My spirit rejoices in God.

*For He who is mighty has done great things for me.
Holy holy, holy holy, holy holy is His name.*

"Then Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior!'" -Luke 1:46-47

Music: Flo Paris Oakes as recorded by Rain for Roots on Waiting Song; ©1999 Flo Paris Music

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Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

"...O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of the farthest seas..." -Psalm 65:5
Charles Wesley (1745); Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard (1830); Public domain

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. ***Trey & Jen Wickham, Randall & Tammy Ingram, and Pat Reynolds*** led this morning's congregational singing. ***Elder Rick McWhorter, Sean & Jesse Winterhalter, and Elder Tim Sinclair*** managed today's audio and video live stream. ***AJ Anonick*** managed the in-house video system.

Q & A with Pastor Steve Shelby

Join Steve this morning after the 10:30 AM 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 15 minutes. Please text **804-608-9372** with your questions and encouragements.

Announcements (listed alphabetically)

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

Children's Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/children

Food Pantry needs www.wepc.org/foodpantry

Monthly Communion (2nd Sunday/month) www.wepc.org/communion

Tutoring Ministry volunteers needed www.wepc.org/tutoring

WEPC Community Preschool www.wepc.org/preschool

Wrap Around Foster Care www.wepc.org/fostercare

Young Singles Fellowship www.wepc.org/youngsingles

Youth Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/youth

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.