



# Order of Worship

## God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

### **The Second 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**

*Full Accord*

"Christian union is far more than an unbroken skin...It is not surface-sameness; it is vital spiritual kinship. It is not a common label; it is a common Heart." -*John Henry Jowett*

"Christ was not ashamed of us at His Incarnation. He was not ashamed to call us His brothers. He took on our flesh and blood, assumed our nature, and became like us in everything apart from sin. Therefore, He will likewise not be ashamed of us in the day of His future. Our Judge is our Savior. He never forgets nor forsakes His people. In full view of the whole world so that all of creation may hear it, He will publicly stand up for His faithful confessors. However despised they may have been in this world, Christ will take their name upon His lips and proclaim it to every ear that they are His—the ones whom He has bought with His own blood and of whom no power in the world or in Hell will be able to rob Him." -*Herman Bavinck*

### **Call to Worship**

*Luke 21:28*

Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

### **Invocation**

*8<sup>th</sup> century Advent Prayer*

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only Son, so that by His coming we may worship You with pure minds; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Song of Adoration**

#### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

*"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" -Revelation 4:8*

Reginald Heber (1826); Tune: NICAEA, John Bacchus Dykes (1861); 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 "[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

Come, Lord Je - sus, come; Now Your whole cre - a - tion groans.

Haste the Day when all shall see Your glo - ry, Lord!

Psalm 126. A Song of Ascents.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

**Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

## Offering

If participation in the offering is part of your weekly worship, please place your offering in one of the 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

### 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.

"He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bring his sheaves with him." -Psalm 126:6  
Isaac Wardell © 2012 Bifrost Arts Music; Used by permission. CCLI #708363

## Children's Message (10:30am)

WEPC Children's Ministry Director, Emily Meeks

## God the Son Renews Us through His Word

### Scripture Reading

*Philippians 2:1-2*

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

### Sermon

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

## God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

### Confession of Sin

Almighty and merciful Father, You have called us to be Your desired followers and have made us one family. Yet we have not lived as one. We have not loved You and one another as You command. We have been fascinated with ourselves, and failed to believe we have encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, and participation in the Spirit. We have not treated one another as those who belong to Jesus Christ, having the same mind, same love, and enjoying full accord. Forgive us for our sins against You and our neighbor. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, make us a church that is eager to do Your will and walk in Your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silent Confession of Sin*

### Words of Encouragement

*1 Timothy 1:18a*

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

### Songs of Response to God's Grace

#### Come Light Our Hearts

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait; for You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You; truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope, Your radiance shines on all who look to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts, oh joy above all other loves.  
In You we find more than enough; we come as we are. O heal and restore; come light our hearts.

*"And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. —Psalm 39:7*

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#### Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come. And I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God. He to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

*"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." -1 John 4:16*  
Words: Robert Robinson (1758); Tune: NETTLETON, John Wyeth (1813); 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 100<sup>th</sup>", 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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***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. ***Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Robin Huff, Terry Marsh,*** and ***Luke Smith*** led this morning's congregational singing. ***Ross Bruning, Chris Scoggins,*** and ***Mike Perzanowski*** managed today's audio and video live stream. ***Clara Bender*** 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.

### **End-of-Year Contributions**

To ensure your church contributions are tax-deductible for 2020, please drop off any donations by 12 PM on 12/31 or make sure they are postmarked by 12/31. Please check your bank and investment account statements for uncleared stock or cash donations to WEPC. Contact AmyCaroline Wilks ([acwilks@wepc.org](mailto:acwilks@wepc.org)) with any questions.

### **Announcements** (listed alphabetically)

**Advent & Christmas at WEPC** [www.wepc.org/adventchristmas](http://www.wepc.org/adventchristmas)

Virtual Angel Tree, Advent Reflections, Family Advent Tree, Bethlehem Walk, Christmas Eve Services

**Children's Ministry** [www.wepc.org/grow/children](http://www.wepc.org/grow/children)

Backyard Children's Worship, Family Advent Tree

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

**Monthly Communion** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday/month) [www.wepc.org/communion](http://www.wepc.org/communion)

Next Monthly Communion: December 13

**Tutoring Ministry volunteers needed** [www.wepc.org/tutoring](http://www.wepc.org/tutoring)

**WEPC Community Preschool** [www.wepc.org/preschool](http://www.wepc.org/preschool)

**Wrap Around Foster Care** [www.wepc.org/fostercare](http://www.wepc.org/fostercare)

Drive Thru Christmas event on 12/19 (gift wrapping donations needed by 12/13)

**Young Singles Fellowship** [www.wepc.org/youngsingles](http://www.wepc.org/youngsingles)

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

Next Youth Group meeting: December 13

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