



Order of Worship

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Third 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

Count Others

"Behold God become human, the unfathomable mystery of the love of God for the world. God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in their opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility, namely, real human beings, the real world, this is for God the ground of unfathomable love... God stands beside the real human being and the real world against all their accusers. So God becomes accused along with human beings and the world, and thus the judges become the accused." -*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Call to Worship

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Invocation

10th century Advent Prayer

Lord, hear our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious appearing; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Song of Adoration

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the King; He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity, In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come. Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, He the perfect Son of Man. In His living, in His suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin. See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man; Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ the Lord upon the tree; in the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory. See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold, bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death, the God of life. But no grave could e'er restrain Him; Praise the Lord! He is alive! What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope! Christ in power resurrected as we will be when He comes.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." -2 Corinthians 3:18

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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

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

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

Psalm 25:1-10. Of David.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

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 for online giving options.

Song of Praise

Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay

Veiled in darkness Judah lay, waiting for the promised day, while across the shadowy night, streamed a flood of glorious light. Heav'nly voices chanting then, "Peace on earth, good will to men", "Peace on earth, good will to men".

Still the earth in darkness lies, up from death's dark vale arise, voices of a world in grief, prayers of men who seek relief. Now our darkness pierce again, "Peace on earth, good will to men", "Peace on earth, good will to men".

Light of light, we humbly pray, shine upon Thy world today. Break the gloom of our dark night; fill our souls with love and light. Send Thy blessed Word again, "Peace on earth, good will to men", "Peace on earth, good will to men".

"Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."- Isaiah 9:2
Douglas Rights, 1915; Tune: NICHT SO TRAUIG; Public Domain

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:3-4

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

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

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

1 Timothy 3:9; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 10:16-17, 15:3-4; from the Book of Common Prayer

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Confession of Sin

Good and gracious Father, we lay our sins before You, confessing that we have not lived in light of Your commandments and promises. You purchased us to be a people who are open-hearted, God-trusting, neighbor-loving, risk-taking, life-giving. Forgive us for our sins against You and our neighbor. We have been tight-fisted, God-doubting, neighbor-scorning, risk-avoiding, life-taking. Because God incarnate humbled Himself, was born, lived, died, rose again, ascended and will come again, we confess our sins with the great confidence that You forgive, redeem, and renew us in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

There are four tables on the floor at the front of the sanctuary. Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family. Feel free to take additional elements to bring back to your seats to serve others in your family or group. After all are served and have returned to their seats, we will take the bread and the cup together as a congregation.

Wine and gluten free bread are in the double-cups. Grape juice and a wheat flour wafer are in the pre-packaged cups.

The Elders presiding over the Supper today are gloved and masked, standing at a safe distance from each communion table. Know that they are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, please raise your hand and an Elder will come to serve you the elements. If you are unable to attend today's worship service and desire Elders to come to your home to administer the Lord's Supper, please let the church office know.

If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless?

Who is this, so weak and helpless, Child of lowly Hebrew maid, rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation, Who this wondrous path has trod; He is Lord from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking sadly life's hard way, homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior, Who above the starry sky, is for us a place preparing, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this, behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground! Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, Who gifts and graces on His church is pouring down; Who shall smite in holy vengeance all His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying, while the rude world scoffs and scorns, numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails,
and crowned with thorns? 'Tis our God Who lives forever 'mid the shining ones on high, in the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." -Luke 2:7

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It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

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.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold; when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" -Luke 2:14

Edmund Sears, 1850; Tune: CAROL; 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); Public Domain

"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 Director Becca Wethered, Pastor Kevin Greene, Erin Bouknight, and Troy Arnold*** led this morning's congregational singing. ***Elder Gordon Kuhfuss, Chris Malak, and Scott Hoye*** managed today's audio and video live stream. ***Scott Dicken and Nathan Reid*** 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) with any questions.