



Order of Worship

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Fourth 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

Humbled & Exalted

"In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity...But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders."

-C.S. Lewis

"Two thousand years ago there was a little stable that contained something in it bigger than the world, and the simplest, filthiest, feeblest heart can also have in it something bigger than the world." -Tim Keller

Call to Worship

from Malachi 3:1-2

The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple.

But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears?

Invocation

8th century Advent Prayer

O God, You make us glad with the yearly expectation of the birth of Christ, Your only Son.
Grant that we, who hail Him with joy as our Redeemer, may also behold Him without fear
when He comes to be our Judge; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Adoration

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels....

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;

Glory to God, glory in the highest....

"Let us go to Bethlehem and see." -Luke 2:15

Attr. to John Francis Wade (1751); Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, Cantus Diversi (1751); 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.

Presentation of New Members (10:30 AM)

John Blackmore

Scott Rice

Alden & Debbie Weichel

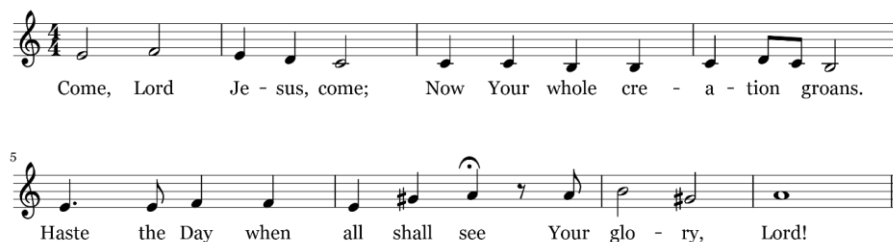
The Ministry of Prayer

"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 2

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten You.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in 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 for online giving options.

Song of Praise

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain, once for favored sinners slain;

Thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of His train, swell the triumph of His train.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him, robed in dreadful majesty, robed in dreadful majesty;

Those who set at naught and sold Him, pierced and nailed Him to the Tree, pierced and nailed Him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Every island, sea, and mountain, Heav'n and earth shall flee away, Heav'n and earth shall flee away;

All who hate Him must, confounded, hear the trump proclaim the Day, hear the trump proclaim the Day;

Come to judgment! Come to judgment! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Now Redemption, long expected, see in solemn pomp appear! See in solemn pomp appear!
All His saints, by man rejected, now shall meet Him in the air, now shall meet Him in the air.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! See the Day of God appear!

"Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him." -Revelation 1:7

Charles Wesley (1758), John Cennick (1752); alt. Martin Madan (1760); Music adapted from Zac Hicks, ©2009 Unbudding Fig Music (ASCAP)
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God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

adapted from Protestant Reformation confessions by Guy de Brès and John Calvin

Lord, You created man from the dust of the earth and made and formed him in Your image and likeness—good, just, and holy; we were able by our own will to conform in all things to Your perfect will.

But when we were in honor we did not understand it, and we did not recognize our excellence. We subjected ourselves willingly to sin and consequently to death and the curse, listening to the word of the devil. For we transgressed the commandment of life, which we had received, and by our sin we separated ourselves from You, our true Life, and we corrupted our entire nature.

So we made ourselves guilty and subject to physical and spiritual death, we became wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all our ways. We forfeited all the excellent gifts which we had received from Your hand, and we retained none of them except for small traces which are enough to make us inexcusable.

Moreover, all the light in us is turned to darkness, as the Scripture teaches us: *"The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not receive it."* Here John calls all of us "darkness."

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

from Colossians 1:12-14

Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

Amen, Amen

Let every creature rise and bring their grateful praises to our King.
Angels descend with songs again and Earth repeats a loud "Amen"...

*Amen, Amen; Amen, Amen.
My life is found; My life is found in Him.
Amen, Amen.*

Peace like a river from His throne will flow to nations yet unknown.
His Word a light where all hope is dim and all tribes unite to cry "Amen"...

And in this Child we'll find our rest and all the meek and lowly blessed,
And infant tongues can sing the hymn of "Hallelujah and Amen"...

"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." -Revelation 22:20

Neil and Kate Robins (2008); Used by permission. CCLI #708363

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A Helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes, to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart,
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Based on Psalm 24

Georg Weissel (1642), trans. Catherine Winkworth (1855), Tune: TRURO, Psalmodia Evangelica (1789); 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 Joe Brown preached today's sermon. ***Elder B-J Huff*** led worship. ***Pastor Kevin Greene, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Lori Bowman, Rick McMahon, Jason Weippert, and Jamison Taggart*** led this morning's congregational singing. ***Ross Bruning, Jon Greenhill, and Deacon Chris Scoggins*** managed today's audio and video live stream. ***Luke Farkas*** managed the in-house video system.

Q & A with Pastor Joe Brown

Join Joe 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.

Christmas Eve Services

4 PM: Family-friendly service celebrating our Savior's Advent through Scripture and song. Children are encouraged to bring an offering of non-perishable food for the WEPC Food Pantry. **This service will take place outside in the side parking lot; please bring your own chair.**

7 PM: Communion Service of Lessons and Carols celebrating our Savior's Advent through Scripture and song. This service will take place in the Sanctuary and will be livestreamed. ***RSVP Required:** www.wepc.org/christmas-eve

At both Christmas Eve services, we will take an offering which provides financial assistance for the needy in our church and community and for ministries approved by the WEPC Diaconate.