



Order of Worship

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The First Sunday after Christmas

In the Christian year, we are now celebrating the Season of Christmas, a time that helps us to remember Christ's birth and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His promised return when He will come to redeem His creation and exercise His authority.

Preparation for Worship

Working Out Inworking

"As many as were redeemed by the blood of Jesus, are also in due time renewed... Though the nature which the Spirit implants is perfect in its kind and in its degree, yet it is not perfect in its development." -Charles Spurgeon

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house.... Presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of – throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." -C.S. Lewis

Call to Worship

Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18

Since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things,

That through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

He had to be made like His brothers in every respect,

So that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Invocation

Song of Adoration

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Come, Desire of Nations come, fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the Woman's conquering Seed, bruise in us the Serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface: stamp Thine image in its place;
Second Adam, from above, reinstate us in Thy love.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

"A great company of the heavenly host was praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.'" -Luke 2:13-14
Charles Wesley (1739); Tune: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840); 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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. With all our heart, and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve in wisdom, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. For President Trump, President-elect Biden, for the leaders of the nations, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Richmond, the Commonwealth of Virginia, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for all homes which are broken or torn by strife, and for the sick, the wounded, and the suffering. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in the midst of their troubles, and bring them the joy of Your salvation. We pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those that have lost, in death, the ones they love. For all who continue in the hope of the resurrection of the dead, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For You to raise up those who fall; and finally, to beat down Satan under our feet, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have struggled in the faith, that they may rest in the truth of the Gospel, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who endeavor to do us harm, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That it may please You to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts to You in repentance, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all whom we have injured or offended; for the forgiveness and remission of our sins, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness she may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to You, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Psalm 23. A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

This Is the Christ

Good news from heaven the angels bring;
Glad tidings to the earth they sing,
To us this day a Child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven...

*This is the Christ our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford.
He will Himself our Savior be,
and from our sins will set us free.*

All hail Thou noble guest this morn,
Whose love did not the sinner scorn,
In my distress Thou come'st to me,
What thanks shall I return to Thee...

Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
She yet were far too poor to be,
A narrow cradle Lord for Thee...

Praise God upon His heavenly throne,
Who gave to us His only Son,
For this His hosts on joyful wing,
A blessed New Year of mercy sing...

*"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy." -Luke 2:10
Martin Luther (1535), trans. Arthru Russell (1848); Tune: Sandra McCracken, © 2010 Drink Your Tea Music (ASCAP); Used by permission. CCLI #708363*

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

John Wesley (1703-91)

Forgive them all, O Lord; our sins of omission and our sins of commission; the sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years; the sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies; our secret and our more open sins; our sins of ignorance and surprise, and our more deliberate and presumptuous sin; the sins we have done to please ourselves, and the sins we have done to please others; the sins we know and remember, and the sins we have forgotten; the sins we have striven to hide from others, and the sins by which we have made others offend You;

Forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for His sake, Who died for our sins and rose for our justification, and now stands at Your right hand to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

Titus 3:4-6

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

All Glory Be to Christ

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive,
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life,
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ...

*All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!*

His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above,
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ...

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light,
And we shall e'er His people be, all glory be to Christ...

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased." -Luke 2:14
Tune: Traditional Scottish folk melody; Dustin Kensrue © 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music; Used by permission. CCLI #708363

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth." -Psalm 98:4
Isaac Watts (1719); Tune: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel (1742); 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. ***Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Robin Huff, Deacon Karl Kuder, and Luke Smith*** led this morning's congregational singing. ***Jay Smith, Elder Rick McWhorter, Jon Greenhill, and Rob MacBride*** managed today's audio and video live stream. ***Nathan Reid*** managed the in-house video system.

Q & A with Pastor Steve

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, the sermon, or general encouragement. 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.

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.