

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations. Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and "God with us," and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

Preparation for Worship

That I May Gain Christ

"In his letter to the Philippians Paul writes about his own identity culturally. He calls it 'the flesh'... Each one of us needs to substitute whatever our own cultural history, cultural identity, cultural heritage, racial identity—whatever we like to put in there—in place of Paul's words right there. We need to be prepared to say with the apostle Paul, 'I am white, I am English, I am Reformed, I am Presbyterian'—or whatever it may be for you—and say, 'I consider this manure.' Those are Paul's words. It is not just rubbish, I consider this dung in comparison to knowing Jesus Christ."

--Jerram Barrs

"Pharisees only repent of their sins, but Christians repent for the very roots of their righteousness, too... the antidote to being bad is not just being good... If you follow through, it will change everything—how you relate to God, self, others, the world, your work, your sins, your virtue."

Call to Worship

Matthew 16:24-26

Jesus told his disciples,

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Invocation

Song of Adoration

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father There is no shadow of turning with Thee Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be...

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love...

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside...

"Great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:23 Thomas O. Chisholm (1923); Tune: FAITHFULNESS, William Runyan (1923). Public Domain. CCLI #708363.

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 <u>"Keep in Touch"</u> form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church.

The Ministry of Prayer

Psalm 97

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

Fire goes before Him and burns up His adversaries all around.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.

All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship Him, all you gods!

Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of Your judgments, O LORD.

For You, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

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 <u>www.wepc.org/giving</u> for online giving options.

Song of Praise

O God, Show Mercy to Us (Psalm 67C)

O God, show mercy to us And bless us with Your grace And cause to shine upon us The brightness of Your face So that the whole world over May truly know Your way And so that Your salvation All nations see displayed

O God, let peoples praise You Let all the peoples praise Let nations come rejoicing And songs of gladness raise

For You will judge the peoples With perfect equity To nations of the whole earth A governor You'll be O God, let peoples praise You Let all the peoples praise The earth has brought its bounty Throughout its harvest days

Since God, our God, will bless us Yes, God will blessing send That all the earth may fear Him To its remotest end

"God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen." Acts 28:28 Gustav Holst (1918). Arranged by Brian E. Coombs, 2003. From The Book of Psalms for Worship © 2009, Crown & Covenant Publications. Used by permission.

Backyard Children's Worship (10:30 AM)

Children, age 3 through 5th grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for an outdoor Bible Lesson, activity, and fellowship on the WEPC playground. Pick-up at the end of the service on the playground. (In case of inclement weather, Children's Worship will meet in the WEPC Chapel.) www.wepc.org/grow/children

God the Son Renews Us through His Word

Scripture Reading Philippians 3:4-8

> ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Sermon

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

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Confession of Sin

Adapted from "The Valley of Vision"

Our Father, enlarge our hearts, warm our affections, open our lips to proclaim the glory of the Cross of Jesus Christ. There grace removes our burdens and heaps them on Your Son, made a transgressor, a curse, and sin for us; There the sword of Your justice struck the God-man; There Your infinite attributes were magnified, and infinite atonement was made; There infinite punishment was due, and infinite punishment was endured.

Christ was all anguish that we might be all joy, cast off that we might be brought in, trodden down as an enemy that we might be welcomed as a friend, surrendered to hell's worst that we might attain heaven's best, stripped that we might be clothed, wounded that we might be healed, thirsty that we might drink, tormented that we might be comforted, made a shame that we might inherit glory.

Our Savior wept that all tears might be wiped from our eyes, groaned that that we might have endless song, endured all pain that we might have unfading health, bore thorns that we might have a crown of glory. Bowed His head that we might uplift ours, experienced reproach that we might receive welcome, closed His eyes in death that we might gaze on unclouded brightness, expired that we might forever live.

O Father, You did not spare Your only Son that You might spare us. Go forth, O conquering God, and show us the Cross, mighty to subdue, comfort, and save.

Silence

Words of Encouragement

Galatians 6:14-15

Far be it from me to boast except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

All I Have Is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night Yet thought I knew the way The sin that promised joy and life Had led me to the grave I had no hope that You would own A rebel to Your will And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race Indifferent to the cost You looked upon my helpless state And Ied me to the cross And I beheld God's love displayed You suffered in my place You bore the wrath reserved for me Now all I know is grace...

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

Now Lord I would be Yours alone And live so all might see The strength to follow Your commands Could never come from me O Father, use my ransomed life In any way You choose And let my song forever be My only boast is You...

"The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot." Psalm 16:5 Jordan Kauflin © 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise. Used by permission. CCLI #708363.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found He is my light my strength my song This Cornerstone, this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease My Comforter, my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

"I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Philippians 3:8 Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2002 Kingsway Thankyou Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363.

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, Pastor Kevin Greene, Robin Huff, Rick Hepner, Deacon Karl Kuder, and Luke Smith led this morning's congregational singing. Jay Smith, Rob MacBride, and Chris May managed today's audio and video live stream. Luke Farkas 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 Contribution Statements

WEPC 2020 Giving Statements were emailed on January 15. Please check your email to confirm receipt of this document. If you did not receive one, or if you have questions about your statement, please contact AmyCaroline Wilks. <u>acwilks@wepc.org</u>

Announcements (listed alphabetically)

Adult Ministry: A Season for Everything

www.wepc.org/book-panel-study Ecclesiastes Livestreamed Panel Discussion and Bible Study Wednesdays through March 3, 7:30-8PM, WEPC website

Children's Ministry <u>www.wepc.org/grow/children</u> Backyard Children's Worship meets during the 10:30 AM service.

Food Pantry needs www.wepc.org/foodpantry

Pointing Kids to the Gospel During a Pandemic

www.wepc.org/pointingtogospel Panel Discussion about the issues facing parents, children, & youth during guarantine Feb. 4 or Feb. 7, 7PM

Simple English Christian Service www.wepc.org/simpleenglish 2nd Sunday of the month, 12 PM, Chapel

Spanish Bible Study <u>www.wepc.org/grow/spanish-bible-study</u> Saturdays, 7-8 PM, Chapel

Tutoring Interest and Training Meeting <u>www.wepc.org/tutoring</u> Sunday, February 21, 9AM, Fellowship Hall ***RSVP Required***

Wednesday Night Fellowship

www.wepc.org/wednesdaynightfellowship TRUE: A study of the New Testament letter to Titus Wednesdays through March 3, 6PM, Chapel ***RSVP Required***

WEPC Community Preschool www.wepc.org/preschool

WEPC Youth Pastor Search <u>www.wepc.org/wepcemployment</u> To apply, please send cover letter, resume, and application (visit link above) by Friday February 26, 2021.

Women's Ministry: SOW Together www.wepc.org/grow/women Winter 2021: Book of Ruth Study continues

Wrap Around Ministry www.wepc.org/outreach/wrap-around-ministry

Youth Group meets this Sunday at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.