



# Order of Worship

## God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

### The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost: *Ordinary Time*

We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time." Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in His glory as King of all.

### Preparation for Worship

*Blessed are those who are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake*

"The exclusiveness of Christian belief, and their conviction that Jesus was not just a god but the God, put [early] Christians on a collision course with nearly everyone in that religiously pluralistic society... Christians appeared to be a threat to the whole social order. Historians explain that early Christians were, as a result, often disinherited, excluded from government jobs, cut out of the best business relationships, and occasionally physically abused and imprisoned." (*Tim Keller*)

"Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even agony into glory." (*C.S. Lewis*)

### Prelude

*Emily Long*

### Call to Worship

*1 Peter 4:13, 5:10-11, read by Stella Glissman*

Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings,  
that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.

**The God of all grace,  
who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ,  
will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.  
To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

### Song of Adoration

#### Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
and tells me of the guilt within  
upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
my sinful soul is counted free

For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me  
Behold Him there! the risen Lamb  
my perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ, my Savior and my God  
With Christ, my Savior and my God

*"These are they which follow the Lamb... they are without fault before the throne." Revelation 14:4-6  
Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863); Tune: Hubert Parry (1916). 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

Micah Jeffrey Livingston (9AM)  
Ford Hendrix (10:30AM)

### Old Testament Reading

*Psalms 59:1-5, 14-17*

*Read by Sarah Jayne Hirt, Emmanuela Deng, & Jenna Zachry*

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;  
protect me from those who rise up against me;  
deliver me from those who work evil,  
and save me from bloodthirsty men.  
For behold, they lie in wait for my life;  
fierce men stir up strife against me.  
For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD,  
for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.  
Awake, come to meet me, and see!  
You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel.  
Rouse yourself to punish all the nations;  
spare none of those who treacherously plot evil.  
Each evening they come back,  
howling like dogs and prowling about the city.  
They wander about for food  
and growl if they do not get their fill.  
But I will sing of your strength;  
I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.  
For you have been to me a fortress  
and a refuge in the day of my distress.  
O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress,  
the God who shows me steadfast love.

### The Ministry of Prayer

## Declaration of Faith

*The Nicene Creed, Council of Nicaea, 325AD*

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both  
the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified; who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## 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

### Jesus, I Thy Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken  
All to leave and follow Thee  
Destitute, despised, forsaken  
Thou from hence my all shall be  
Perish every fond ambition  
All I've sought or hoped or known  
Yet how rich is my condition  
God and heaven are still my own

Let the world despise and leave me  
They have left my Savior, too  
Human hearts and looks deceive me  
Thou art not, like them, untrue  
O while Thou dost smile upon me  
God of wisdom, love, and might  
Foes may hate and friends disown me  
Show Thy face and all is bright

Man may trouble and distress me  
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast  
Life with trials hard may press me  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me  
While Thy love is left to me  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure  
Come disaster, scorn and pain  
You redeem our pain for pleasure  
With Thy favor, loss is gain  
I have called Thee Abba Father  
I have stayed my heart on Thee  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather  
All must work for good to me

*"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34  
Henry F. Lyte (1824); ©2001 Bill Moore Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363.*

## Children's Worship (10:30 AM)

*Children, age 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson, activity, and fellowship. Pick up from the Chapel.  
[www.wepc.org/grow/children](http://www.wepc.org/grow/children)*

## Children's Blessing (10:30AM)

Gather round ye children come  
Listen to the old, old Story  
Of the power of death undone  
By an Infant born of glory  
Son of God, Son of Man

*"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 19:14  
Andrew Peterson ©2005 New Springs (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Used by permission. CCLI #708363.*

## God the Son Renews Us through His Word

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:10

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

### Sermon

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

## God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

### Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your steadfast love and atoning sacrifice, You took our place and proved Yourself to be the Friend of sinners. You were punished that we might be pardoned, and broken that we would be made whole. In Your resurrection You demonstrated Your power over death, and secured our future-- triumphant, redeemed, and blessed eternally. While we await Your return, we confess that we have been faithless and anxious in heart. In our restlessness we have sought peace for our souls in a salvation of our own making. Apart from You, we find ourselves dangerously proud, alone and worn.

Forgive us, Savior! Renew our faith and restore to us the true rest You alone offer us. Amen.

*Silence*

**Words of Encouragement***Zephaniah 3:14-15*

Rejoice and exult with all your heart... The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

**Songs of Response to God's Grace****Jesus Paid It All**

I hear the Savior say  
Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness, watch and pray  
Find in Me thine all in all...

*Jesus paid it all  
All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow*

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots  
and melt the heart of stone....

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save  
my lips shall still repeat...

*"You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." I Corinthians 6:19-20  
Elvina M. Hall (1865); arranged by Kristian Stanfill & Alex Nifong*

**Isaiah 43**

When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you  
And the wind and the waves  
Shall not overcome you  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you  
I have called you by name,  
and you are mine...

*For I am the Lord your God (women echo)  
I am the Lord your God (women echo)  
I am the Holy One of Israel, Your Savior  
I am the Lord (Do not fear) (4x)  
I am the Lord*

When you pass through the fire  
I will be with you  
And the fire and the flames  
Shall not overcome you  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you  
I have called you by name  
And you are mine...

**Promises**

God of Abraham, You're the God of covenant  
And of faithful promises  
Time and time again, You have proven  
You'll do just what You said...

Though the storms may come and the winds may blow  
You'll remain steadfast  
And let my heart learn, when You speak a word  
It will come to pass

*Great is Your faithfulness to me  
Great is Your faithfulness to me  
From the rising sun to the setting same  
I will praise Your name  
Great is Your faithfulness to me*

God from age to age, though the earth may pass away  
Your word remains the same  
And history can prove, there's nothing You can't do  
You're faithful and true...

I put my faith in Jesus  
My anchor to the ground  
My hope and firm foundation  
He'll never let me down...

*"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant..." Deuteronomy 7:9  
Aaron Moses | Dante Bowe | Joe L. Barnes | Keila Alvarado | Lemuel Marin | Philip Carrington Gaines ©2020 Maverick City. 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 and youth are available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the 9AM service and in the West Foyer following the 10:30AM service.**

**Youth Director Isaiah Thomas** preached today's sermon. **Elder & Neighborhood Outreach Director Changjwok Deng** led worship. **Pastor Kevin Greene**, **Assistant Youth Director Marcela Henderman**, **Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered**, **Kathryn Kuder**, **Owen Wilcox**, **Rachel Becker**, **Andrew Weippert**, and **Luke Smith** led this morning's congregational singing. **Ross Bruning** and **Deacon Tim Andrews** managed today's audio and video live stream. **Luke Farkas** managed the in-house video system. Special thanks to **Micah Feldman**, **Luke Andrews**, **Drew & Kate Greenhill**, **Juvana Beshai**, **Irina Smith**, **Kate Bowman**, **Anna Roe Brown**, **Cody Hahn**, **Grace Fedora**, **Emily & Hayes Wilks**, **Corinne Lewis**, **Emily Long**, **Sarah Jayne Hirt**, **Jenna Zachry**, **Emmanuela Deng**, **Stella Glissman**, and **Tim Graff** for assisting with today's services.

**Q & A with Youth Director Isaiah**

Join Isaiah 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. Today is our final Q&A.

**Announcements****Adult Ministry****Adult Sunday School** [www.wepec.org/grow/adults](http://www.wepec.org/grow/adults)

9:00 AM

- Series on Advent / Library
- Series on Discipleship / Rm. 21

**Third Saturday Mature Singles Fellowship**[www.wepec.org/MASfellowship](http://www.wepec.org/MASfellowship)

Next Meeting: December 18 / 4-5:30PM

**Women's Ministry** [www.wepec.org/grow/women](http://www.wepec.org/grow/women)

- **Christy Nockels Christmas Concert**  
Free live-streamed Christmas concert **Thursday, 12/9 in the WEPC Fellowship Hall**. The concert will begin at 8pm and doors will open at 7:15pm. Any questions, please contact Georgia Collier at [gapeachvcu@yahoo.com](mailto:gapeachvcu@yahoo.com) or 804.366.3868.

**Young Singles** [www.wepec.org/grow/adults](http://www.wepec.org/grow/adults)

Dec 5: Lunch, Worship, &amp; Prayer

**Children's Ministry** [www.wepec.org/grow/children](http://www.wepec.org/grow/children)**9 AM**

- Nursery (infant-3 years old)--upstairs
- Preschool Quest (4 & 5 years old)--downstairs
- Sunday School (K-5)--downstairs

**10:30 AM**

- Nursery (infant-3 years old)--upstairs
- Children's Worship (4 years old - 2nd grade)--Chapel

**Food Pantry needs** [www.wepec.org/foodpantry](http://www.wepec.org/foodpantry)**Missions** [www.wepec.org/missions](http://www.wepec.org/missions)**Are you involved with any of the following ministry organizations?**

Please contact the WEPC Mission Team at [missions@wepec.org](mailto:missions@wepec.org) to let us know so we can be better coordinated with these ministries!

- Christian Counseling and Training Center
- Needles Eye Richmond
- seeJesus.net
- STEP
- Sweet Monday

**STEP Christmas Store**

Collecting donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children living in Gilpin Court. For more information on suggested items or volunteering, please visit [our website](http://our website). Donations due at WEPC on Sunday, Nov. 28.

**Neighborhood Outreach Ministry** [www.wepec.org/neighborhood](http://www.wepec.org/neighborhood)**Simple English Christian Service** [www.wepec.org/simpleenglish](http://www.wepec.org/simpleenglish)

Second Sunday of each month / 12PM / Chapel

**Interested in Welcoming Afghan Immigrants?**

WEPC is forming a team to help welcome & support Afghan immigrants resettling in our community. Contact [Changjwok Deng](mailto:Changjwok Deng) or [Lori Bowman](mailto:Lori Bowman) if interested in hearing more!

**Youth Ministry** [www.wepec.org/grow/youth](http://www.wepec.org/grow/youth)**Youth Sunday School:** 9AM / Fellowship Hall (no meeting today)**Wednesday Night Youth Group (no meeting this week because of Thanksgiving)**

- **Middle School:** 6-7:30PM / Gym
- **High School:** 7:30-9PM / Gym

**General Information****Richmond Big Band Christmas 2021**

Sunday, December 5 / 4PM / Byrd Theatre

Tickets and more information are available at [bigbandchristmasva.com](http://bigbandchristmasva.com).**Weekly Communion Starting Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>**

We will resume serving communion weekly with the beginning of the Advent season on Sunday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 11/14/21):**

Operating gifts YTD: \$ 741,599.22

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$ 742,760.96

% of expected budget received: 99.84%

**End-of-Year Contributions**

To ensure your church contributions are tax-deductible, please drop off any donations by 12PM 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@wepec.org](mailto:acwilks@wepec.org)) with any questions.

**Counseling**

Lara Finnie, Licensed Professional Counselor at WEPC, is available by appointment. Visit [Abiding Branches](http://Abiding Branches) for more information.

**Christmas at WEPC****Cookies & Caroling**

Sunday, Dec 12 / 6PM / Fellowship Hall

Join us for a night of fellowship and Christmas caroling with your WEPC family! Contact Becca Wethered ([becca@wepec.org](mailto:becca@wepec.org)) with any questions.

**Christmas Eve Services:**

- **4PM: Family-Friendly Service**
- **7PM: Communion Service of Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday, Dec 26 Worship Services**

We will have our regular 9 and 10:30 AM worship services with nursery services provided. The following ministries will NOT meet: Adult & Children's Sunday School, Children's Worship, and Youth Group.