



Order of Worship

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The First Sunday in 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

Reviled & Rejoice

"When they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name." -- Acts 5:40-41

"Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation
Grant us Thy peace.

Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,

Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,

Now at this birth season of decease,

Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,

Grant Israel's consolation

To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow."

--T.S. Eliot, "A Song for Simeon"

Call to Worship

Revelation 1:5-7, read by Beth Childress

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

Song of Adoration

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night

Thy people's everlasting light

O Christ, Redeemer of us all

We pray you hear us when we call...

Come, oh come

Come, oh come

Come, oh come

To us

When this old world drew on toward night

You came, but not in splendor bright

Not as a monarch, but the child

Of Mary, blameless mother mild...

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" Revelation 22:20

Words: Anonymous, 7th Century. Additional Lyrics: Alex Mejias. Music: Alex Mejias
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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 attendee 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.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah's song as he waited for the Savior, "Benedictus"

Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The Ministry of Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, Come

Come Lord Jesus, come

All creation groans

Savior, come and dwell with us

Make Your glory known

"'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" Revelation 22:20
Becca Wethered, Advent 2021

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

He Who Is Mighty

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death's shadow
The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the cornerstone
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born...

*He Who is mighty has done a great thing
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame
Holy is His name*

Oh, the freedom our Savior won
The yoke of sin has been broken
Once a slave, now by grace
No more condemnation
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born...

Now my soul magnifies the Lord
I rejoice in the God Who saves
I will trust His unfailing love
I will sing His praises all my days...

*"For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."
Luke 1:49*

*Rebecca Elliott | Kate DeGraide, ©2014 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI/Sovereign
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Children's Worship (10:30 AM)

Children, age 4 through 2nd 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

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 & Sacrament

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:11-12

¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

I Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Confession of Sin

Puritan Prayer, from The Valley of Vision

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

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, He has turned away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, true Prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven's door
Be Thou our Comforter and Guide and lead us to the Father's side
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall by His Word our darkness dispel

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede
 Thy sacrifice, our only plea
 The judgment we no longer fear
 Thy precious blood has brought us near
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell

O come, Thou King of nations, bring
 An end to all our suffering
 Bid every pain and sorrow cease
 And reign now as our Prince of Peace
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Shall come again with us to dwell

*"They will call Him Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:23
 Latin Hymn (12th century), trans. John Mason Neale (1851); Tune: VENI
 EMMANUEL (13th century)*

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord
 My spirit rejoices in God
 My soul magnifies the Lord
 My spirit rejoices in God

For He who is mighty
 Has done great things for me
 Holy holy
 Holy holy
 Holy holy
 Is His name

*"Then Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior!'" Luke 1:46-47
 Music by Flo Paris Oakes as recorded by Rain for Roots on Waiting Song. ©1999
 Flo Paris Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363.*

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long expected Jesus
 Born to set Thy people free
 From our fears and sins release us
 Let us find our rest in Thee
 Israel's strength and consolation
 Hope of all the earth Thou art
 Dear desire of every nation
 Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
 Born a child and yet a King
 Born to reign in us forever
 Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
 By Thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone
 By Thine all sufficient merit
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne

*"The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also
 conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne." Revelation 3:21
 Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard. 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 at the front of the Sanctuary
 following the 9AM & 10:30AM services.*

*Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led
 worship. Trey Wickham, Jen Wickham, Pat Reynolds, Pastor Kevin
 Greene, Rick Hepner, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and
 Deacon Jason Weippert led this morning's congregational singing. Elder
 Rick McWhorter, Chris Malak, and Scott Hoye managed today's audio and
 video live stream. Luke Farkas managed the in-house video system.*

Announcements

Adult Ministry

Adult Sunday School www.wepc.org/grow/adults

9:00 AM

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

Third Saturday Mature Singles Fellowship

www.wepc.org/MASfellowship

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

Women's Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/women

- **Game Night!**

Please join us on Wednesday, December 1st from 6-7:30pm in
 the Fellowship Hall for a Ladies' Game Night! Bring a game to
 share or just come ready to play an old favorite or learn a new
 one! BYO food and drinks. Anyone is welcome and no RSVP is
 required - just come and enjoy! Questions? Contact Heather
 Oberle at hoberle@wepc.org.

- **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 or 804.366.3868.

Young Singles www.wepc.org/grow/adults

Dec 5: Lunch, Worship, & Prayer

Children's Ministry www.wepc.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.wepc.org/foodpantry

Missions www.wepc.org/missions

Are you involved with any of the following ministry organizations?

Please contact the WEPC Mission Team at missions@wepc.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](#). Donations due at WEPC TODAY.

Neighborhood Outreach Ministry www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Christian Service www.wepc.org/simpleenglish

Second Sunday of each month / 12PM / Chapel

Youth Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/youth

Youth Christmas Party

December 3 / 6-8PM / Fellowship Hall

[RSVP here!](#)

Youth Sunday School: 9AM / Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Youth Group

- **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 bigbandchristmasrva.com.

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

Operating gifts YTD: \$ 772,379.91

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$ 783,364.33

% of expected budget received: 98.60%

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@wepc.org) with any questions.

Counseling

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

Advent & 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@wepc.org) with any questions.

Christmas Eve Services:

- **4PM: 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.
- **7PM: Communion Service of Lessons & Carols** celebrating our Savior's Advent through Scripture and song.

**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, such as South Sudan Community Development, WEPC's In Jesus Name Food Pantry, and Afghan Refugee Resettlement.*

Sunday, Dec 26 Worship Services

We will have our regular 9:00 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.