



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

Salt & Light

"At the beginning when the first promise of salvation was given to Adam (Gen. 3:15) it glowed like a feeble spark. Then, as it was added to, the light grew in fullness, breaking forth increasingly and shedding its radiance more widely. At last— when all the clouds were dispersed— Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, fully illumined the whole earth." --*John Calvin*

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." --*Acts 1:8*

Call to Worship

Luke 21:28, read by John Garang Puot

فَمَتَىٰ يَدَأُتْ هَذِهِ الْأَحْدَاثُ، قِفُوا وَارْفَعُوا رُؤُوسَكُمْ، لِأَنَّ وَقْتَ فِدَائِكُمْ يَقْتَرِبُ.

Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Song of Adoration

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
 Christ, the true, the only Light
 Sun of Righteousness, arise
 Triumph o'er the shades of night
 Dayspring from on high, be near
 Daystar, in my heart appear

Dark and cheerless is the morn
 Unaccompanied by Thee
 Joyless is the day's return
 Till Thy mercy's beams I see
 Till they inward light impart
 Glad my eyes, and warm my heart

Visit, then, this soul of mine
 Pierce the gloom of sin and grief
 Fill me, Radiance divine
 Scatter all my unbelief
 More and more Thyself display
 Shining to the perfect day

"The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness." *Luke 1:78-79*
Charles Wesley (1740); Tune: RATISBON, J.G. Werner's Choralbuch, (1815)

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.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our 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

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.

God the Son Renews Us through His Word & Sacrament

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in 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

God the Holy Spirit Transforms Us by His Grace

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

I Timothy 3:9, I Corinthians 5:7-8, 10:16-17, 15:3-4; from the Book of Common Prayer

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Confession of Sin

"Arise, shine: for your Light has come."

Heavenly Father, forgive us; we have lived as if the Light of the World had not overcome the darkness of our sin.

"And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

Lord Jesus Christ, redeem us; we confess that we sought our own glory as we grew impatient for Your advent.

"For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you."

Holy Spirit, renew us; we have often grown accustomed to darkness, and so hardened the true yearnings of our waiting hearts.

"And nations shall come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your rising."

Almighty God, You came to us in the fullness of time. Draw us to live in Your presence and grace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Words of Encouragement

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.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

First Communion

Micah Livingston (9AM)

Micah recently met with the Elders of WEPC, who heard his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Livingston family to receive communion first.

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

There are four tables on the floor at the front of the sanctuary. Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family. Feel free to take additional elements to bring back to your seats to serve others in your family or group. After all are served and have returned to their seats, we will take the bread and the cup together as a congregation.

Wine and grape juice with gluten free bread are available in double cups. The wafer is found in the bottom cup.

The Elders presiding over the Supper today are standing at a safe distance from each communion table. Know that they are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, please raise your hand and an Elder will come to serve you the elements. If you are unable to attend today's worship service and desire Elders to come to your home to administer the Lord's Supper, please let the church office know.

If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord
She is His new creation by water and the Word
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 3:11

Text: Samuel J. Stone (1866). Tune: AURELIA (S. Wesley, 1864). Public Domain.

Come Light Our Hearts

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait

Truly our hope is in You

Truly our hope is in You

O Lord of life our only hope

Your radiance shines

On all who look to You in the dark

Emmanuel come, come light our hearts...

Oh joy above all other loves

In You we find more than enough

We come as we are, O heal and restore

Come light our hearts...

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Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay

Veiled in darkness Judah lay

Waiting for the promised day

While across the shadowy night

Streamed a flood of glorious light

Heav'nly voices chanting then

"Peace on earth, good will to men"

"Peace on earth, good will to men"

Still the earth in darkness lies

Up from death's dark vale arise

Voices of a world in grief

Prayers of men who seek relief

Now our darkness pierce again

"Peace on earth, good will to men"

"Peace on earth, good will to men"

Light of light, we humbly pray

Shine upon Thy world today

Break the gloom of our dark night

Fill our souls with love and light

Send Thy blessed Word again

"Peace on earth, good will to men"

"Peace on earth, good will to men"

*"Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." Isaiah 9:2
Words: Douglas Rights (1915); Music: Alex Mejias ©2007 Alex Mejias Music.
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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. **Robin Huff, Jill Wiebe-King, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Stanton Coman, Rachel Becker, Gordon Collier and Luke Smith** led this morning's congregational singing. **Andy Becker, Aaron Suttin, and Deacon Chris Scoggins** managed today's audio and video live stream. **Scott Dicken** managed the in-house video system.

Announcements**Adult Ministry**

Adult Sunday School 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

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

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

- **Women's Advent Prayer Gathering**

Sundays, December 5th-December 19th / 8:30-9AM / Chapel

Join us as we bring our longing hearts to Jesus, the Light of the World, during this season. All women are welcome!

Please note: During this intimate time in the Chapel, and to serve the most vulnerable among us, we request that you wear a mask during this gathering. Masks will be provided.

- **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.wepec.org/grow/adults

TODAY: Lunch, Worship, & Prayer

Children's Ministry 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

Food Pantry needs www.wepec.org/foodpantry**Missions** www.wepec.org/missions**Are you involved with any of the following ministry organizations?**

Please contact the WEPC Mission Team at 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

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 Sunday School: 9AM / Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Night Youth Group

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

General Information

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 11/28/21):

Operating gifts YTD: \$ 783,834.60

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$ 818,715.50

% of expected budget received: 95.74%

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

Angel Tree

WEPC is again working with Prison Fellowship to provide gifts to children whose parents are currently incarcerated. Like last year, we are doing everything online. Please click [HERE](#) to purchase a gift card. Please purchase gifts by **Friday December 10**. Contact Steve Glissman at steveglissman@gmail.com with any questions.

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.