



Order of Worship

God the Father Calls Us to Worship Him

The Fourth 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

The Just Judge & Reconciler

"Behold God become human, the unfathomable mystery of the love of God for the world. God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in their opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility, namely, real human beings, the real world, this is for God the ground of unfathomable love... God stands beside the real human being and the real world against all their accusers. So God becomes accused along with human beings and the world, and thus the judges become the accused." --*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." --*Ephesians 4:26-27*

Call to Worship

Haggai 2:6-7, read by Anderson Gonzaga

Assim diz o Senhor dos Exércitos: "Dentro de pouco tempo farei tremer o céu, a terra, o mar e o continente. Farei tremer todas as nações, as quais trarão para cá os seus tesouros, e encherei este templo de glória", diz o SENHOR dos Exércitos.

In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory," says the LORD Almighty.

Song of Adoration

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy
 Lord God Almighty
 Early in the morning
 Our song shall rise to Thee
 Holy, holy, holy
 Merciful and mighty
 God in three persons
 Blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy
 All the saints adore Thee
 Casting down their golden crowns
 Around the glassy sea
 Cherubim and seraphim
 Falling down before Thee
 Who wert and art
 And evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy
 Though the darkness hide Thee
 Though the eye of sinful man
 Thy glory may not see
 Only Thou art holy
 There is none beside Thee
 Perfect in power
 In love and purity

Holy, holy, holy
 Lord God Almighty
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name
 In earth and sky and sea
 Holy holy holy
 Merciful and mighty
 God in three persons
 Blessed Trinity

*"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!'" Revelation 4:8
 John Bacchus Dykes | Reginald Heber ©Words: Public Domain. Music: 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 (10:30AM)

Brian & Julie Kastelein

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 59:15-16, 19-20

Truth is lacking,
 and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.
 The LORD saw it, and it displeased him
 that there was no justice.
 He saw that there was no man,
 and wondered that there was no one to intercede;
 then his own arm brought him salvation,
 and his righteousness upheld him...
 So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west,
 and his glory from the rising of the sun;
 for he will come like a rushing stream,
 which the wind of the LORD drives.
 "And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
 to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD.

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

Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless

Who is this, so weak and helpless
Child of lowly Hebrew maid
Rudely in a stable sheltered
Coldly in a manger laid
Tis the Lord of all creation
Who this wondrous path has trod
He is Lord from everlasting
And to everlasting God

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows
Walking sadly life's hard way
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway
Tis our God, our glorious Savior
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing
Where no tear can dim the eye

Who is this? Behold him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground
Who is this, despised, rejected
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound
Tis our God, Who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne

Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns
Numbered with the malefactors
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns
Tis our God Who lives forever
Mid the shining ones on high
In the glorious golden city
Reigning everlastingly

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:7
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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 5:21-26

²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny."

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

From Matthew 26:17-29

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Confession of Sin

Lord God, every day we are reminded that we fall short of Your glory: You are strong; we are blown about by every whim. You call for justice; we play favorites and prefer man-made comfort. You are holy through and through; our best efforts are marred by sin and cannot save us. Oh how we need a Savior to ransom us from bondage to sin! Thank You for providing exactly what we need in Jesus. Oh how we need continued renewal in Your image! Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to continue Your work in Your Church. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to rest in Your grace. Amen.

Silence

Words of Encouragement

Hebrews 9:28

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes with clouds descending
Once for favored sinners slain
Once for favored sinners slain
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train
Swell the triumph of His train
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty
Robed in dreadful majesty
Those who set at naught and sold Him
Pierced and nailed Him to the Tree
Pierced and nailed Him to the Tree
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see

Every island, sea, and mountain
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
All who hate Him must, confounded
Hear the trump proclaim the Day
Hear the trump proclaim the Day
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Now Redemption, long expected
See in solemn pomp appear
See in solemn pomp appear
All His saints, by man rejected
Now shall meet Him in the air
Now shall meet Him in the air
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
See the Day of God appear!

*"Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him." Revelation 1:7
Charles Wesley (1758), John Cennick (1752); alt. Martin Madan (1760); Music adapted from Zac Hicks, ©2009 Unbudding Fig Music (ASCAP). Used by permission. CCLI #708363.*

Make A Way

Come, Son of God, and make us new
Light of the world, our hearts renew
Hope in our inner darkness lies
Oh, healing Sun of Justice rise

Come, promised since our Eden's end
Child of the woman, come defend
Long have we felt the serpent's sting
Come, strike his head, and mercy bring...

*Oh make a way! Open wide the gates
Oh make a way! Through the sorrow and the pain
Oh make a way! Though the road is dark and winding
Oh come, come*

Come, Son of Man, to show the way
Oh, through the tears, may we see the day
So long did we in darkness dwell
Come down to break the chains of hell...

Oh come, make a way
Oh come, make a way
Oh come, make a way
Oh come, come

*"And He who was seated on the throne said 'Behold, I am making all things new.'
Also He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Revelation 21:5*

Kate Bluett | Isaac Wardell | Paul Zach. ©2021 Integrity Worship Music/PG Songs and Hymns/ASCAP. Used by permission.

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
 Christ the Lord upon the tree
 In the stead of ruined sinners
 Hangs the Lamb in victory
 See the price of our redemption
 See the Father's plan unfold
 Bringing many sons to glory
 Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
 Slain by death the God of life
 But no grave could e'er restrain Him
 Praise the Lord He is alive
 What a foretaste of deliv'rance
 How unwavering our hope
 Christ in power resurrected
 As we will be when He comes

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18
 Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Michael Bleecker ©2012 Bleecker Publishing. 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 at the front of the Sanctuary following the 9AM & 10:30AM services.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. **Pastor Kevin Greene** led worship. **Elder Chris Newlin, Erin Bouknight, Buddy Miner, Donald Smith, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and Troy Arnold** led this morning's congregational singing. **Elder Gordon Kuhfuss and Aaron Suttan** managed today's audio and video live stream. **Scott Dicken** managed the in-house video system.

Announcements

Adult Ministry

Third Saturday Mature Singles Fellowship

www.wepc.org/MASfellowship

NO December Meeting

Next Meeting: January 15 / 4-5:30PM

Children's Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/children

***No Sunday School, Preschool Quest or Children's Worship on 12/26 or 1/2**

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

KY Tornado PCA Response

Visit the [PCA website](http://www.wepc.org/missions) for information on supporting those affected by the tornadoes in Kentucky.

Neighborhood Outreach Ministry www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Sewing Friends Restarting Jan. 19

Wednesdays / 9:30-11:30AM / Rm. 33

Looking for ways to connect with immigrant women and share the love of Jesus? Join Sewing Friends for opportunities to sew together and develop relationships – ability to sew is helpful, but not required.

Contact Christine Morobe, christine@wepc.org, if interested.

Simple English Christian Service www.wepc.org/simpleenglish

Second Sunday of each month / 12PM / Chapel

Youth Ministry www.wepc.org/grow/youth

Parent Meeting TODAY: 9:30AM / Fellowship Hall (*NO Youth Sunday School)

Wednesday Night Youth Group (resumes in Jan. 2022)

General Information

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 12/12/21):

Operating gifts YTD: \$ 948,950.85

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$ 902,794.61

% of expected budget received: 105.11%

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](http://www.wepc.org/abiding-branches) for more information.

Advent & Christmas at WEPC

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.