



West End
presbyterian church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord.

The Church now lives as those who are "risen with Christ," living under His rule.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

GOD AND ISRAEL

"If anybody is lost, the blame is theirs, but if anybody is saved, the credit is God's. This antinomy contains a mystery which our present knowledge cannot solve; but it is consistent with Scripture, history, and experience."

--John Stott

"He uses the Jews to reach the Gentiles and the Gentiles to reach the Jews. All peoples—both the Gentiles and the Jews—have been disobedient, and yet all peoples—from the Gentiles and Jews—will find God's mercy (or rather, be found by it). God's mercy is coming to all means that, as FF Bruce puts it, it is coming 'on all without distinction, rather than on all without exception.'"

--Tim Keller

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 51:1-3

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

**Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.**

For the Lord comforts Zion;
He comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;

**Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace
2. My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Your name
3. Jesus! The name that charms our fears
That bids our sorrows cease
Tis music in the sinner's ears
Tis life and health and peace
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin
He sets the prisoner free
His blood can make the foulest clean
His blood availed for me
5. He speaks and listening to His voice
New life the dead receive
The mournful broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe
6. Glory to God and praise and love
Be ever ever given
By saints below and saints above
The church in earth and heaven

"And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God." Acts 3:8

Words: Charles Wesley;
Music: Carl G. Glaser.
Arr. by Norton Hall Band.
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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 attender or church member, we encourage you to use our online or paper "[Keep in Touch](#)" form to introduce yourself, request prayer, or request more information about our church. Following the service, please introduce yourself to Pastor Steve Shelby either in the Gallery or on the front sidewalk.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hosea 14:1-4, 9

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy." I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

CONFESSION OF SIN

*from the Book of
Common Prayer*

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts worship something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared to humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life. To the Glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

II Timothy 1:9

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper; God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1).

OFFERING

You can place your offering and/or tear-off as the plates pass. If you miss today's offering, please visit www.wepc.org/giving for online giving options or mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229).

O GOD, SHOW MERCY TO US (PSALM 67)

1. 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*

2. 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,
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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

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

*"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*

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

Andrew Peterson
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SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 11:1-36

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³"Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." ⁴But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." ⁵So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. ⁷What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." ⁹And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever." ¹¹So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹²Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! ¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." ²⁰That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²²Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. ²³And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. ²⁵Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; ²⁷"and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." ²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. ³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/worship/sermons-media.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

from Matthew 26:17-29

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:



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. The Elders presiding over the Supper are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament. For a list of ingredients in the wafers, see www.wepc.org/communion.

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

*"Truly God is good to
Israel." Psalm 73:1*

Jonathan McReynolds.
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GOD IS GOOD

May your struggles keep you near the Cross
May your troubles show that you need God
May your battles end the way they should
May your bad days prove that God is good
May your whole life prove that God is good

*"Immediately the
father of the child
cried out and said,
"I believe; help my
unbelief!" Mark 9:24*

Clint Wells | John
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HELP MY UNBELIEF

1. I know the Lord is nigh
And would but cannot pray
For Satan meets me when I try
And frights my soul away
And frights my soul away

2. I would but can't repent
Though I endeavor oft
This stony heart can ne'er relent
Till Jesus makes it soft
Till Jesus makes it soft...

*Help my unbelief
Help my unbelief
Help my unbelief
My help must come from Thee*

3. I would but cannot love
Though wooed by love divine
No arguments have power to move
A soul as base as mine
A soul so base as mine

4. I would but cannot rest
In God's most holy will
I know what He appoints is best
And murmur at it still
I murmur at it still...

WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

1. Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men...

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way...

3. Almighty, Infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne...

*"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."
Romans 8:26*

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." Psalm 150:6

Text: Thomas Ken (1709) Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (Bourgeois, 1551)

BENEDICTION

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

A team is available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the 9 & 10:30 AM services.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's supper. ***Elder Rick McWhorter*** led worship. ***Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Robin Huff, Sarah Shrader, Casey O'Dea, and Deacon Karl Kuder*** led this morning's congregational singing. ***Jay Smith and Deacon Tim Andrews*** managed today's audio and video live stream. ***Deacon Brian Zollinhofer*** managed the in-house video system.

The tapestry at the front of the sanctuary is the traditional liturgical color of white for this 50-day season of Easter. The tapestry will return to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled "Psalm 148," and was created by a team of WEPC artists.

Romans 12:12-13

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Adult Sunday School - 9AM, through May 28

- **Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God**
Rm 810
- **Book of Revelation**
Rm 21

Third Saturday Mature Singles Fellowship

www.wepc.org/MASfellowship

May 20 / 4-5:30PM / WEPC Library

Join us for fellowship, devotional study, prayer, and dinner afterwards. Newcomers welcome!

Contact: Janice Sharp (loljanice727@gmail.com)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Youth Group:** Wednesdays / Youth Lounge
6-7:30 PM--Middle School
7:30-9 PM--High School
- May 17 / 6:30-8 PM: "Wednesdae" Bar
- May 24 / 6-8 PM: Parent/Student Volleyball
- May 27 / 11 AM - 2 PM: Paint the Ceiling
- July 22: Amazing Race
- July 29 - Aug 2: The Landing Camp Trip
Register [HERE!](#)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

9 AM

- Nursery (infant-3 years); upstairs
- Sunday School (PreK-5); downstairs

10:30 AM

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

Worship Lab for Second Graders

May 21 / 10:30 AM / Rm 119

Each week, students will learn about a different element of the worship service and why we include those elements in our corporate worship.

Vacation Bible School 2023

June 19-22 / 5:30-8 PM

[Registration](#) is open!

Volunteers Needed: Please sign-up [HERE](#).

Contact: Talya Tacosa O'Dea (vbs@wepc.org)

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Track Camp Summer 2023

June 26-30 / 5:30-8 PM

Join us for a week of running, learning, and fellowship with neighbors in the community. All levels are welcome. Register [HERE](#) for track camp. Volunteers Needed: Please sign up [HERE](#).

- **Track Camp Interest Meeting**

SUN, June 4 / 9 AM / Room 21

For new and returning participants and volunteer leaders to learn more about how the camp week will run.

Contact: Changjwok Deng (changjwok@wepc.org)

WRAP-AROUND MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/outreach/wrap-around-ministry/

Monthly Meeting

May 21 / 9 AM / Rm. 19

Join us for our monthly meeting to learn about the many ways you can support foster families.

Contact: Ali Fogarty (alifogarty@gmail.com)

MISSIONS

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions/

Missionaries in Residence: JJ & Susan Foster Connect & Encourage Lunch

June 4 / 12 PM / Fellowship Hall

Join us as we connect and hear from WEPC Missionary in Residence JJ Foster, who serves with his family in Europe. RSVP to Karen (missions@wepc.org)

YoungLives Metro Richmond Camp

July 13-18 / Rockbridge

Childcare volunteers are needed to support teen moms as they learn Jesus loves them - adults, teens, and family teams are invited to join this mission! Cost and details [HERE](#). Contact: Joyce Lawrence (jl7577@comcast.net)

Missionary Support

WEPC supported missionaries Tim & Sarah Cornwell are returning to Richmond from the mission field. They have some immediate needs in this season of transition:

- Are you able to provide interim housing July through mid-October for Tim & Sarah and their two teenage boys?
- Do you have a vehicle they could borrow beginning in July until they are able to purchase vehicles of their own?

Contact: Brian Wilcox (bwilcox26.2@gmail.com)

General Information

Deacons of the Week

Ed Bowman, Matt Mailloux, Ben Bacon,
& Cory Payne

Worship Arts Summer Book Study:

Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren

Sundays / June 25-August 6 / 12-1:30PM / Rm 810

Do our seemingly mundane, ordinary actions matter? How do we worship God even when we're not at church? Join us as we consider how our daily, ordinary actions (*checking email, brushing our teeth, even losing our keys!*) can remind us of our Creator and draw us to worship Him. We'll eat lunch at 12PM and start the study at 12:30PM (lunch provided at our first meeting). Led by Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered & Donald Smith, click [HERE](#) to purchase a copy of the book. RSVP to Becca (becca@wepc.org).

Steve Shelby's Sabbatical

Pastor Steve Shelby will be taking a Sabbatical Leave this summer and will be away from the church from June 1-August 31. The general goals of a Sabbatical Leave are to enhance the personal ministry of our pastors and to further the long-term ministry objectives of the church. Sabbatical time could include, but are not limited to: spiritual renewal, physical rest and restoration, and professional growth.

Other staff members will be covering Steve's routine responsibilities during this time. We look forward to what God is going to do in and through his time away this summer. Please pray for Steve and his family in the coming months!

Save the Date: October 6 & 8, 2023

WEPC's 30th Anniversary Celebration Weekend!

"His Love Endures Forever"

Join us as we reflect on and celebrate God's faithfulness to West End Presbyterian Church over these past 30 years! Friday will include a potluck dinner, followed by a worship service. Sunday will include our weekly worship services (9 & 10:30 AM), followed by a tailgate party in the parking lot, hosted by our Youth Ministry.

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 5/7/2023):

Operating gifts YTD: \$2,104,715.11

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$2,060,221.58

% of expected budget received: 102.16%

Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

We are in need of **6 adult nursery volunteers** for 1st service rotating every five weeks.

Contact: Audrey (audrey@wepc.org)

Prayer & Support Group

Email pray4fam@wepc.org for prayer and support for couples struggling with infertility.

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

There are 3 ways to donate to our food pantry:

- Use the CURRENT NEEDS list from the website.
- Join a FOOD ITEM TEAM described on the website for list-free giving.
- Designate MONETARY GIFTS to the food pantry.

Keep in Touch

Especially if this is your first Sunday with us —welcome!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Who invited you to WEPC? How did you first hear about us?

◇ Check if this is NEW contact information for you.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ◇ Visitor | Age: |
| ◇ Male | ◇ 20 or younger |
| ◇ Female | ◇ 21-26 |
| ◇ Single | ◇ 27-34 |
| ◇ Student (Grade ____) | ◇ 35-49 |
| ◇ Student (College) | ◇ 50-64 |
| ◇ Married | ◇ 65 and older |
| ◇ Parent | |
| ◇ Widowed | |

I would like info about:

- ◇ WEPC
- ◇ Women's Ministry
- ◇ Men's Ministry
- ◇ Childrens Ministry
- ◇ Youth Ministry
- ◇ Adult Classes
- ◇ Home Groups
- ◇ Neighborhood Outreach
- ◇ Becoming a member of WEPC
- ◇ Other: _____

◇ Please include me on the WEPC email list.

◇ I am interested in learning more about becoming a Christian.

Prayer Requests:

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and forgiving me. I run from my sins—my old life living for myself—and receive you as Savior. Amen.