

GOD THE FATHER CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

Easter Sunday

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

THE VICTORY

"I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death.

O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?"

--Hosea 13:14

"The resurrection of Christ is a fountain of good for His church and for the whole world. It is the 'Amen' of the Father upon the 'Finished' of the Son."
--Herman Bavinck

"Farewell, dear old man! We leave you in possession of death till the resurrection day...you will not always have possession of this dead body; it shall be demanded of you by the great Conqueror, and at that moment you will resign your prisoner...Prepare to meet this old servant of Christ, at that day, at that hour, when this whole place shall be all nothing but life, and death shall be swallowed up in victory."
--John Collett Ryland

Call to Worship

The angel speaks to the women at the empty tomb, Matthew 28:5-6 "Do not be afraid, as you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Invocation

Song of Adoration

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY



"Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." I Corinthians 15:20

Charles Wesley (1749); Tune: EASTER HYMN, Lyra Davidica (1708). 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 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

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Ministry of Prayer

Let us pray for the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve in wisdom, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. For President Biden, for the leaders of the nations, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Richmond, the Commonwealth of Virginia, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, all whose homes are broken or torn by strife, and for the sick, the wounded, and the suffering. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in the mist of their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those that have lost, in death, the ones they love. For all who continue in the hope of the resurrection of the dead, we pray to You, Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For comfort and help for the weak-hearted; for You to raise up those who fall, and finally to beat down Satan under our feet, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have struggled in the faith, that they may rest in the truth of the Gospel, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our enemies and those who endeavor to do us harm, we pray to You, Lord. Lord, have mercy.

That it may please You to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts to You in repentance, we pray to You, Lord, have mercy.

For all whom we have injured or offended. For the forgiveness and remission of our sins, we pray to You, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness she may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to You, Lord. **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

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).

Declaration of Faith

How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

Heidelberg Catechism 45 (1563)

First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, so that He might make us share in the righteousness He won for us by His death. Second, by His power we too are already now resurrected to new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

O COME TO THE ALTAR

1. Are you hurting and broken within Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin Jesus is calling Have you come to the end of yourself Do you thirst for a drink from the well Jesus is calling...

O come to the altar The Father's arms are open wide Forgiveness was bought with The precious blood of Jesus Christ

- 2. Leave behind your regrets and mistakes Come today, there's no reason to wait Jesus is calling Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy From the ashes a new life is born Jesus is calling...
- 3. Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia, Christ is risen Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia, Christ is risen...

Andrew
Peterson ©2005
New Springs
(Admin. by
BrentwoodBenson Music
Publishing,
Inc.) Used by
permission.
CCLI #708363

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

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

I Corinthians 15:51-58

⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Sermon

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

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."

I Timothy 3:9; I Corinthians 15:3-4; John 14:3

Kevin Greene, 2024

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People (sing): Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again



Confession of Sin

Almighty God, in raising Your Son from the grave, You shattered the power of sin and death. By Your Spirit, You caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You promise a future that is imperishable, but we have given ourselves to perishable ways that lead to death. You promise that we shall be changed, but we have grown impatient and rebellious. We have been overwhelmed by grief and trial, and our hearts have grown hard in the waiting. Forgive us, Father of mercy. We long to see our risen Lord. Grant us faith to believe in Him, and teach us to long for that Day of inexpressible joy filled with glory, in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

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.

Silent Confession of Sin

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.

At the center aisle station, wine and grape juice with gluten-free wafers are available in double cups. The gluten-free wafer is found in the bottom cup. Juice is in the purple cup. Wine is in the clear cup. At all the other stations, grape juice is in purple cups, wine is in the clear cups on the outer ring of the tray, and gluten-free bread is served alongside. 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.

Words of Encouragement

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! I Peter 1:3; II Corinthians 5:17

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS US BY HIS GRACE

Songs of Response to God's Grace

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power." 1 Corinthians 6:14

Dee Wilson | Ricky Vazquez Sefan Cashwell. ©2023 Common Hymnal Digital. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

BY THE SAVIOR'S POWER

1. Oh the grave that I was in Oh the crushing weight of sin Bear beneath the crashing waves Sinking ne'er to rise again Jesus pulled me to the shore And grace abounded all the more And I was changed that very hour Rescued by the Savior's power...

Oh Jesus, our Redeemer Great Defender, Overcomer Christ the Victor, there's no other Praise His name forevermore

- 2. With my last and final breath Passing through the door of death I will pray just like Your Son Not my will but Yours be done And as I sail to heaven's shores I will trust You all the more And leave this life, this fleeting flower Resting in the Savior's power...
- 3. Oh the mighty great I Am
 Rules with victory in His hands
 Oh He will crush the gates of hell
 And bring us with Him to dwell
 And with all who've come before
 We will praise You evermore
 For death is swallowed up forever
 Conquered by the Savior's power...

Amen, amen, amen, amen

"He has risen, just as He said." Matthew 28:6

Jack Hayford (1986); Tune: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart (1867). Public domain

WORSHIP CHRIST, THE RISEN KING

- 1. Rise, O Church, and lift your voices Christ has conquered death and hell Sing as all the earth rejoices Resurrection anthems swell Come and worship, come and worship Worship Christ, the risen King
- 2. See the tomb
 Where death had laid Him
 Empty now, its mouth declares
 "Death and I could not contain Him
 For the throne of life He shares"
 Come and worship, come and worship
 Worship Christ, the risen King
- 3. Hear the earth protest and tremble See the stone removed with pow'r All hell's minions may assemble But cannot withstand is hour He has conquered, He has conquered Christ the Lord, the risen King

- 4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur Scoffers mock and sinners jeer But the truth proclaims a wonder Thoughtful hearts receive with cheer He is risen, He is risen Now receive the risen King
- 5. We acclaim your life, O Jesus Now we sing Your victory Sin or hell may seek to seize us But Your conquest keeps us free Stand in triumph, stand in triumph Worship Christ, the risen King

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song This Cornerstone, this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled when strivings cease My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe This Gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand Till he returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

"Jesus... there is salvation in no one else." Acts 4:11-12

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend ©2001 Thankyou Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

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

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

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's Supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Ford Hendrix, Robin Huff, Andrew Bogle, Georgia Collier, Tucker Tetterton, Jude Molique, and Paul Cho led this morning's congregational singing. Andy Becker and Deacon Chris Scoggins managed today's audio and video live stream. Michael Whitman 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.

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

 Easter Devotional TODAY / 9 AM / Room 810

• The Life of Jesus

April 7-June 30 / 9 AM / Room 810 Join us as we study the life of Christ. Using videos from the great 20th century theologian RC Sproul's "Dust to Glory" series, we will examine the moment in redemptive history when the second Person of the Trinity revealed Himself to His people in the most profound way.

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies
Join us as we continue studying the book of
Jonah. New women are welcome.
Wellspring: Tuesdays / 9:15-11:30 AM
Restore: Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM
Contact: Brice Bowman (brice@wepc.org) or
visit our website to register.

Youth Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

• Sunday School: 9 AM

Youth Group: Wednesdays
 *No Meeting on 4/3 or 4/10
 6-7:30 PM--Middle School

6-7:30 PM--Middle School 7:30-9 PM--High School

• Homework Time: Tuesdays / 6-8 PM

*No Meeting on 4/2

• Brunch & Movie: April 10 / 10AM-1PM

HS Modgnik: April 12-14 / Register HERE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

Sundays

- 9 AM: Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Sunday School (PreK-5)
- **10:30 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Children's Worship (4 years-2nd grade)

*Nursing Mom's Room (service audio available during both services)

Kids¹ Club (K-5th grade)
*No Meeting on 4/3 or 4/10
Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM
Join us for Bible teaching, games, crafts, and fellowship!

Neighborhood Outreach Ministry

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

10K Training Team

Join the Good News Can't Lose Team if you are interested in running, jogging, or walking the Monument Avenue 10k on Saturday, April 20. Contact: Misti Procious (misti@wepc.org) with questions.

Missions

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

Prison Discipleship (PDM) Awareness Dinner April 12 / 6:30-8:15 PM / Fellowship Hall Join us to hear about about the work of WEPC Missions Partner Prison Discipleship Ministry, serving men and women in jails and prisons in central Virginia. RSVP by April 1 to Al Yancey (804-801-4035)

Patty's Hope Celebration Dinner

April 26 / 6:30-9 PM / Fellowship Hall Join us in celebrating God's faithfulness to the mission of WEPC Missions Partner Patty's Hope with an evening of worship, prayer, fellowship,& more! RSVP here, or contact Leila Gunning (Leila@pattyshope.org).

Patty's Thrift - Volunteers Needed!

Patty's Thrift, a consignment store that is part of the Patty's Hope Ministry, is looking for volunteers to help with sorting and other tasks, as they get ready to open their new store. Please sign up here for details on how to help, or visit their website to reach out directly.

At Ease Volunteers Needed

WEPC Missions Partner At Ease Ministry at Fort Gregg-Adams is looking for volunteers to help with a literature table at the post's main exchange, one Saturday a month, 11AM-2PM, This small team distributes bibles, tracts, and Christian literature to our US military personnel in training. Experience with the military is helpful, but not essential. More information: Steve Zachry (atease1@verizon.net)

General information

Deacons of the Week

Taylor Miller, Tim Andrews, Jake Porter, & Rick McMahon

Work Crew Volunteers Needed for Modgnik High School Retreat April 12-14

Volunteers are still needed at Rockbridge Camp for WEPC's high school retreat. Jobs include serving food, cooking, washing dishes, working the snack bar, coffee shop, or camp store. Ages 15 + are welcome to volunteer!

Contact: Brandon Blevins (<u>brandon@wepc.org</u>)

Goochland County Church Plant

Do you live in Goochland County, VA? Are you, or someone you know, interested in hearing more about a new Presbyterian Church in America church plant in Goochland County? Contact: Pastor Joe Brown (joe@wepc.org)

Singing at PCA General Assembly 2024?

Our denomination, The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), will be conducting its 51st General Assembly this summer in Richmond, VA. During that assembly on June 11, a choral prelude will be sung prior to an evening worship service and volunteers are welcome to sing and be a part of this choral offering. Contact: Jack Templeton (jack.and.minda@gmail.com)

WEPC Preschool Enrollment is Open!

We'd love your little ones to join us at WEPC with classes available for 1-5 year olds! For more info, visit wepc.org/preschool, contact Casey (casey@wepc.org), or pick up an enrollment packet outside the WEPC Community Preschool office in the gallery.

Sandra McCracken in Concert

May 2 / 7:30PM

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Sandra McCracken is coming to Richmond for a concert that will support Sandra's latest album, "Light in the Canyon." Opening the evening will be her latest side project, Paper Horses, including Taylor Leonhardt. Tickets available online at http://tinyurl.com/mccrackentickets.

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 3/24/2024):

Operating gifts YTD: \$1,901,399.99 Forecasted gifts YTD: \$1,879,256.17 % of expected budget received: 101.18%

Prayer & Support Group

Email <u>pray4fam@wepc.org</u> for prayer and support for couples struggling with infertility.

FOOD Pantry

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Please continue to check our <u>weekly list</u> or join a <u>Food Item Team</u> to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

Food Item Teams:

Reach for Team Peach! Give the Fry Team a try! Team Garbanzo, you rock! Way to Go, Team Tomato! Shine! Join Team Star Baker!

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 <u>NEW</u> contact information for you. Please check the appropriate boxes: **Prayer Requests:** ♦ Visitor ♦ Male ♦ 20 or younger ♦ 21-26 ♦ Female ♦ Single ♦ 27-34 ♦ Student (Grade ____) ♦ 35-49 ◊ 50-64 ♦ Student (College) ♦ 65 and older ♦ Married ♦ Parent ♦ Widowed I would like info about: ♦ WEPC ♦ Women's Ministry ♦ Men's Ministry ♦ Childrens Ministry ♦ Youth Ministry ♦ Adult Classes ♦ Home Groups ♦ Neighborhood Outreach Prayer of Belief ♦ Becoming a member of WEPC ♦ Other:_____ Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, ♦ Please include me on the WEPC email list. 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.

becoming a Christian.

◊ I am interested in learning more about