

GOD THE FATHER CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time." Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in His glory as King of all.

Preparation for Worship & Communion

OUR GOD, THE ROCK

"If they wanted water, it was He who smote the rock to make the stream gush forth. If they needed that their enemies should be destroyed, it was He whose uplifted hands brought them the victory. Now Moses was about to go up to the top of Nebo, and to die there—and the people greatly trembled at the prospect of losing him. But the Lord gave them this promise to console them, 'I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee'... Moses dies but Moses' God does not die. He is the dwelling place of His people in all generations."

-- Charles Spurgeon

"The soul that on Jesus has lean'd for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes; That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

—"How Firm a Foundation," American Folk Melody

"Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any." --Isaiah 44:8

Call to Worship

The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people.

"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

Psalm 50:1-4, 23

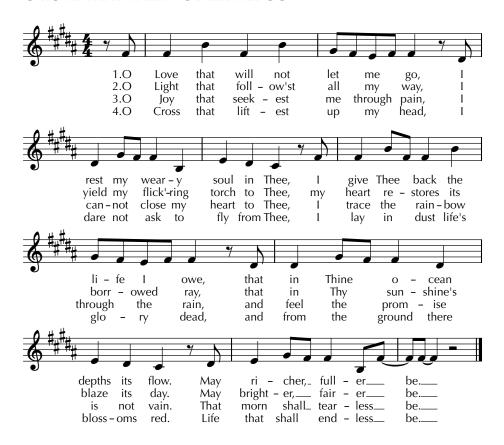
The First Word

We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

Invocation

Song of Adoration

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO



Invocation.

Asking God to be with us.

Adoration.

The God who meets with us in worship is good and powerful. We recognize His greatness and remember His amazing works together in song.

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." Jeremiah 31:3

George Matheson (1882); Tune: ©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Used by permission.

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.

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 10:26-36

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Ministry of Prayer

Offering

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).

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).





"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16

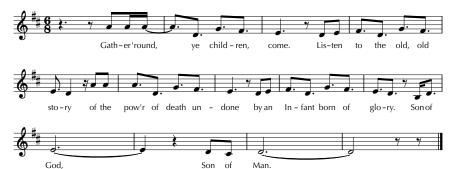
James Cummins (1839); Music by Greg Thompson; © 2004 Greg Thompson Music. Used by permission.

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 Room 121. www.wepc.org/grow/children

CHILDRen's Blessing (10:30am)

GATHER ROUND YE CHILDREN, COME



"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

Deuteronomy 32:1-43, (NIV)

Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. ²Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. 3I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! 4He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. 5They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation. 61s this the way you repay the Lord, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you? ⁷Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. 8When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. ⁹For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance. 10 In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, "like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft. 12The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him. 13He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag, 14with curds and milk from herd and flock and with fattened lambs and goats, with choice rams of Bashan and the finest kernels of wheat. You drank the foaming blood of the grape. 15 Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; filled with food, they became heavy and sleek. They abandoned the God who made them and rejected the Rock their Savior. ¹⁶They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. ¹⁷They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your ancestors did not fear. ¹⁸You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth. ¹⁹The Lord saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters. 20"I will hide my face from them," he said, "and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful. ²¹They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding. ²²For a fire will be kindled by my wrath, one that burns down to the realm of the dead below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains. 23"I will heap calamities on them and spend my arrows against them. ²⁴I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust. ²⁵In the street the sword will make them childless; in their homes terror will reign. The young men and young women will perish, the infants and those with gray hair. 26I said I would scatter them and erase their name from human memory, 27but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy, lest the adversary misunderstand and say, 'Our hand has triumphed; the Lord has not done all this.'" 28They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them. ²⁹If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be! 30How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the Lord had given them up? 31For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede. 32Their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are filled with poison, and their clusters with bitterness. 33Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras. 34"Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? 35It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them." ³⁶The Lord will vindicate his people and relent concerning his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free. ³⁷He will say: "Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in, ³⁸the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up to help you! Let them give you shelter! 39"See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand. 40I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear: As surely as I live forever, ⁴¹when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me. 42I will make my arrows drunk with blood, while my sword devours flesh: the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders." 43Rejoice, you nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.

Sermon

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

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." Luke 22:7-8, 14, 19-20, 29-30

When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you..."

"And I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

Confession of Sin

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.

Lord God Almighty, Your understanding is unsearchable and infinite, Your arm cannot be stayed. Holy is Your wisdom, power, mercy, ways, works. How can I stand before You with my numberless offenses? I have often loved darkness, observed lying vanities, forsaken Your given mercies, trampled underfoot Your beloved Son, mocked Your providences, flattered You with my lips, broken Your covenant. It is only in light of Your compassion that I am not consumed. At the Cross may I contemplate the evil of sin, and abhor it. May I look on Him whom I pierced, as One slain for me, and by me. May I never despise His death by fearing its efficacy for my salvation. And whatever cross I am required to bear, let me see Jesus suffering mine.

Silent Confession of Sin

Words of Encouragement

Zephaniah 3:14-15

Rejoice and exult with all your heart...The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

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.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

ROCK OF AGES (WHEN THE DAY SEEMS LONG)



"He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken."
Psalm 62:2

Kevin Twit | Sandra McCracken © 2005 Same Old Dress Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363 "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

Words: Kathrina Amalia von Schlegel (1752). Music: Jane Laurie Borthwick Jason Ingram | Jean Sibelius | Kari Jobe ©2013 Worship Together Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

BE STILL, MY SOUL (IN YOU I REST)



STEADFAST



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

Sandra McCracken Leslie Jordan | Josh Silverberg (adaptations from Henri Nouwen), ©2016 Drink Your Tea Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363 "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." Psalm 150:6

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

What does "doxology" mean? It's derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-inone) nature.

Doxology



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.

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 the Lord's Supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Elder Chris Newlin, Sarah Jurewicz, Buddy Miner, Tim Drummond, Donald Smith, and Troy Arnold led this morning's congregational singing. Greg Stiles and Deacon Chris Scoggins managed today's audio and video live stream. Cody Hahn managed the inhouse video system.

Sermon Notes

announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Adult Sunday School: 9AM / Room 810

Sept 22: Modern Discipleship
Join us as we hear testimonies, look at
Scripture, and consider the simplicity and

Scripture, and consider the simplicity and intention of discipleship between believers.

Sept 29, Oct 6 & 13: Stories of Redemption
 Each of us has a story to tell of God's
 redemption in our lives. Join us as we hear
 stories from two of our missionaries and our
 newest staff member.

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Fall Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies

Wellspring: Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:30 AM Restore: Wednesdays 6-7:30 PM Join us as we listen and engage with the words of Jesus in Matthew 5-7 in the Sermon on the Mount! Each week we will ponder how Jesus's description of His Kingdom invites us to reconsider our needs, our relationships, and our place in the Kingdom of God. Register now. Contact: Brice Bowman (brice@wepc.org)

Wednesday Night Fellowship GREATER: A Study of the Letter of Colossians

www.wepc.org/WNF

Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM / Chapel Join us as we study the New Testament letter to the Colossians and see how Jesus is greater than everything: He gives us new life and a new community. Led by Kevin Greene, Brian Wilcox, and Becca Wethered. Contact Kevin (kevin@wepc.org) with questions.

Youth Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

• Sunday School: 9AM / Youth Lounge

• Youth Group: September 25 / Youth Lounge

• Homework Time: Tuesdays / 6-8 PM

• Cereal Bowl: October 3 / 6:30-8 PM / Gym

FOOD Pantry

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

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

CHILDREn's MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

Sundays

• **9** AM: Nursery (infant-3 years old)

• 10:30 AM: Núrsery (infant-3 years old) & Children's Worship (4 years-2nd grade)

*Children's Worship does not meet on the 1st Sunday of the month. Instead, there will be a Children's Message during the 10:30AM worship service.

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

Kids Club

Wednesdays / 6-7:30PM / Kindergarten-5th Grade

Children's Ministry Volunteer Needs

• 8 Nursery Workers (serve once every 8 weeks)
Please contact Audrey Snyder (<u>audrey@wepc.org</u>)
to volunteer.

Missions

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

Welcome Opedun Family!

Boas & Jenna Ruth Opedun (together with their children) are visiting from Uganda and will be our WEPC Missionaries in Residence for the next six months. The Opeduns serve as missionaries with WEPC Missions Partner SERGE, and we are so grateful to hear more about what God is doing through their work in Uganda during their time with us. If anyone is willing to donate gift cards, for groceries or gas during their stay, please contact Karen Howe (karen@wepc.org).

Patty's Hope Support Opportunities

Shoppers Needed

Come shop at Patty's Thrift (2101 Maywill Street) to support the biological mothers of children in foster care in the Patty's Hope program.

Mom's Group Food Donations

Sign up to cover a meal or snack for one of our mom's care groups - to sign up, visit this link.

The Gideons International Cards

New support cards from WEPC Missions Partner The Gideons International are available in the WEPC gallery.

Neighborhood Outreach Ministry

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

8K Training Team

Saturdays / 8AM

Join us every Saturday to prepare to walk or run the 8k on November 16. If interested, please contact Changjwok (<u>changjwok@wepc.org</u>).

Sewing & Knitting Friends

We are looking for a handful of volunteers who would like to help our friends from the neighborhood learn how to sew and knit. Currently, the group plans on meeting on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 AM to 12 PM, with a possible starting date of October 2nd. However, the group will not begin until we have enough volunteers to help and support the participants. If interested, contact Donna MacBride (donna@themacbrides.com.

Simple English Bible Study

2nd & 4th Sundays / 5-6:30 PM Join our multicultural community twice a month as we meet to study the Bible using the Gospel of Mark. Contact: Changjwok Deng (<u>changjwok@wepc.org</u>)

General information

Deacons of the Week

Jake Porter, Tim Andrews, Cory Payne, & Bryce Allison

Inquirer's Weekend

October 4-6 / WEPC Fellowship Hall For those interested in learning more about our church and the possibility of membership in the future. Come meet our pastors in a group setting and learn some foundations of Christianity, our church's worship, and opportunities for connection and service with others. Questions or to RSVP (due by Sept 30): Karen Howe (karen@wepc.org)

WEPC Church-Wide Tailgate

October 20 / following the 2nd Service Hosted by WEPC's Youth Ministry, this is a fantastic opportunity for fellowship and fun with the entire church family. The Youth ministry will provide the main dish of BBQ, but we would love for you to sign up to bring a side dish to share. Don't forget to bring chairs and picnic blankets. RSVP HERE!

WEPC Employment Opportunity: Assistant Director of Neighborhood Outreach

WEPC is currently seeking candidates to fill the Assistant Director position for our Neighborhood Outreach Ministry. Misti Procious, who is currently in this position, will be stepping down from her role and transitioning over the next several months. She will continue worshipping as a member of WEPC, so you will still see her around! Please pray for Misti as she makes this transition. We are so grateful for the ways she has served and cared for children in the neighborhood through Kid's Club, tutoring, & Track Club - thank you, Misti! Please contact Changjwok Deng (changjwok@wepc.org) if you or someone you know may be interested in this position. Read the job description HERE.

DivorceCare Mens Group Fall 2024

Tuesdays / 7:30-9 PM / Chapel Join us for a 13-week Christ-centered program addressing the complexity of life when facing marital separation or divorce. Register at www.divorcecare.org/findagroup, and click on the "More Info" tab for West End Presbyterian Church. Contact: Bryan Finch (Bryanlfinch@gmail.com) or Matt Osenga (Osengam@hotmail.com)

WEPC Small Groups: Enrollment Open!

Please consider joining a Small Group this Fall! Small groups are a great way to make a big church smaller, meet people, and get into the Word. Contact: Joy Andrews (joy@wepc.org) for more information.

Register Now! Barnabas Basic Training November 9 / 9AM-4PM / Community West Join us for an introduction to the foundational principles of The Barnabas Model, which considers the human heart and human relationships within a Biblical framework. Cost \$110 with optional lunch purchase for \$15 register now. Scholarships and ministry rates available. Contact: Kim Johnson (kjohnson@ barnabasrva.org)

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 9/15/2024):

Operating gifts YTD: \$435,916.89 Forecasted gifts YTD: \$477,773.67 % of expected budget received: 91.24%

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.