



West End

presbyterian church

The First Sunday of 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 & Communion

A GREAT LIGHT

"As those who see light are in the light sharing its brilliance, so those who see God are in God sharing His glory, and that glory gives them life. To see God is to share in life. When Christ comes, God will be seen by men."
--Irenaeus, 2nd Century

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
--John 8:12

"As our Lord Jesus tells us, unless we see the light of God clearly, what we call light is actually darkness: 'how great is that darkness!' (Matt. 6:23). Advent bids us take a fearless inventory of the darkness: the darkness without and the darkness within."
--Fleming Rutledge

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 119:1-3, 105

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.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong but walk in his ways!

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Invocation.

Asking God to be with us.

INVOCATION

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF ADORATION

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged se - raph, che - ru - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly min - ded,
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way, as the Light of light des - cend - eth
sleep - less eye, veil their fa - ces to the Pre - sence,

for with bles - sing in his hand Christ our Lord to earth des -
in the bo - dy and the blood, he will give to all the
from the realms of end - less day, that the powers of hell may
as with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia al - le -

cend - eth, our full ho - mage to de - mand.
faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.
va - nish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Lord most high!"

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.

"Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling"
Zechariah 2:13

Liturgy of St. James, 5th century, trans. Gerard Moultrie (1864); Tune: PICARDY, traditional French Carol (17th century)
Music from Picardy (French carol melody); Arrangement: High Street Hymns, ©2007 Ross Byrd. 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.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:5*

The Porter's Gate.
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Zach Publishing.
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DRIVE OUT THE DARKNESS

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

Come, O__ come, be our Light, drive out the dark-ness; Come, O__

come, be our Light, drive out the dark-ness; come, Je-sus, come.

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. Please visit www.wepec.org/giving for or scan the QR code for online giving options, or mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229).



CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

VERSE



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Thy
2. When this old world drew on toward night, You



peo - ple's e - ver las - ting Light. O Christ, Re - deem - er
came but not in splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch,



of us all, we pray You hear us when we call.
but a child of Ma - ry, blame - less, mo - ther, mild.

REFRAIN



Come, oh come. Come, oh come.



Come, oh come to us.

*"He who testifies
to these things
says, 'Surely I am
coming soon.'
Amen. Come,
Lord Jesus!"*
Revelation 22:20

Words:
Anonymous,
7th Century.
Additional
Lyrics: Alex
Mejias. Music:
Alex Mejias
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CHILDREN's Message (10:30am)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:1-2

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon questions is posted each Sunday at <https://wepc.org/worship/sermons-media>. You can also find the sermon audio on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#) under "West End Presbyterian Church RVA."

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

CONFESSIOIN 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.

Silent Confession of Sin

Based on Isaiah 60:1-3

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.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

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.

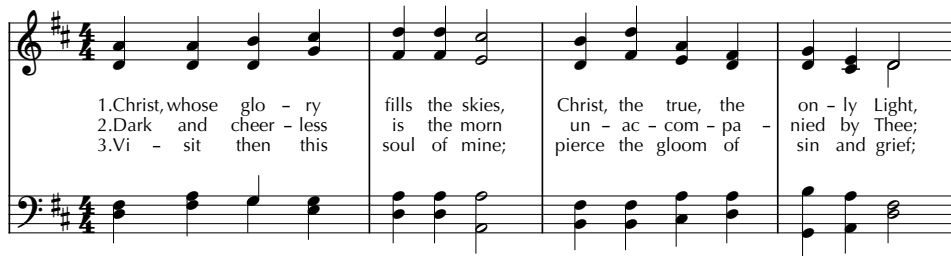
At each communion station, grape juice is served in purple cups, wine is served in clear cups, and gluten-free bread is served in a separate tray.

At the center aisle station, double-cups are also available, where the small gluten-free wafer is found in the bottom cup. Again, grape juice is in the purple cups and wine is in the clear cups. 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

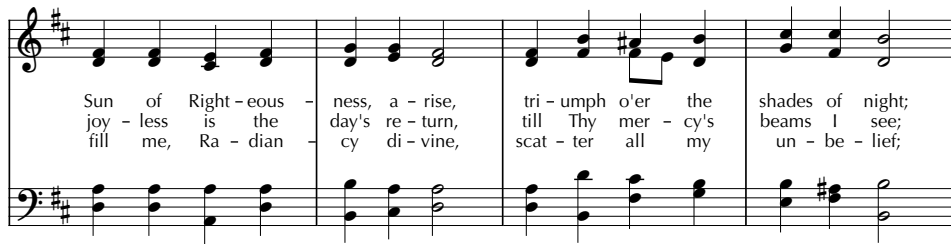
CHRIST WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES



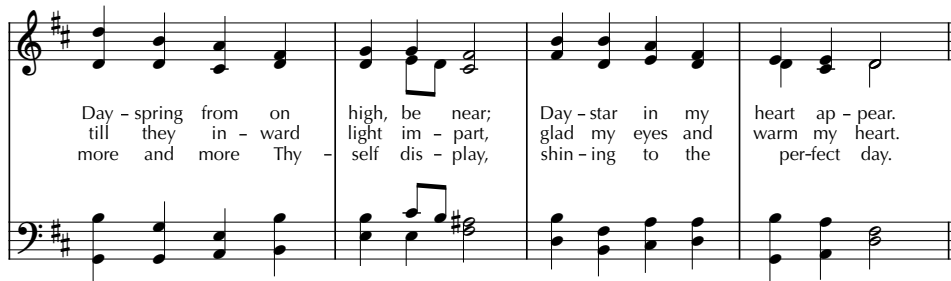
1.Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
 2.Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;
 3.Vi - sit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

"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).
 Public Domain.



Sun of Right - eous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy - less is the day's re - turn, till Thy mer - cy's beams I see;
 fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near;
 till they in - ward light im - part,
 more and more Thy self dis - play,
 Day - star in my heart ap - pear.
 glad my eyes and warm my heart.
 shin - ing to the per - fect day.

*"Those who dwell in a land
of deep darkness, on them
has light shone." Isaiah 9:2*

Words: Douglas Rights
(1915); Music: Alex Mejias
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VEILED IN DARKNESS JUDAH LAY

1. Veiled in dark - ness Ju - dah lay, wait - ing for the
2. Still the earth in dark - ness lies. Up from death's dark
3. Light of light, we hum - bly pray, shine u - pon Thy

prom - ised day, while a - cross the sha - dow - y night
vale a - rise voi - ces of a world in grief,
world to - day; break the gloom of our dark night,

streamed a flood of glo-rious light, heav'n - ly voi - ces chant-ting then,
prayers of men who seek re - lief: "Now our dark - ness pierce a - gain,
fill our souls with love and light, send Thy bles - sed Word a - gain,

"Peace on earth, good will to men." "Peace on earth, good will to men."
"Peace on earth, good will to men." "Peace on earth, good will to men."
"Peace on earth, good will to men." "Peace on earth, good will to men."

ALL THINGS NEW

VERSE



1. Come, Lord, and tar - ry not; bring the long looked for day;
2. Come, for cre - at - ion groans, im - pat - ient of Thy stay,



o, why these years of wait - ing here, these a - ges of de - cay?
worn out with these long years of ill, these a - ges of de - lay.



Come, for Thy saints still wait; dail - y a - scends their sigh;
Come, for love wax - es cold, its steps are faint and slow;



the Spi - rit and the Bride say, "Come;" does Thou not hear the
faith now is lost in un - be - lief, hope's lamp burns dim and

REFRAIN



cry? O come and make all things new, come and make all things
low.



new, o come and make all things new. Build up this ru - ined



earth, come and make all things new, all things new.

"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

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*"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-in-
one) nature.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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 Lord's
Supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Robin Huff, Tim Drummond,
Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Ford Hendrix, Donald Smith and Jake
Bruning led this morning's congregational singing. Andy Becker and Deacon
Sean Winterhalter managed today's audio and video live stream. Ethan
Molique managed the in-house video system. Children's Director Audrey
Snyder gave the Children's Message at the 10:30AM service.*

Sermon Notes

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Adult Sunday School: 9 AM / Room 810

Advent: Waiting | through Dec 29

Advent asks us to patiently wait on the hope found in the birth of Christ. I do not like to wait, do you? What if we are missing something in the waiting? What if it is a gift? With Advent hymns and songs as our guide we'll learn how rich waiting can be. Led by Matt Bouknight.

Contact: matt@wepc.org

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! Register now. Contact: Brice Bowman (brice@wepc.org)

Save the Date: Women's Retreat

March 1 at 9 AM - March 2 at 11 AM

Roslyn Retreat Center

Registration begins January 5, 2025.

\$150 (Early Registration) Jan. 5 - Jan. 31, 2025

\$180 (Late Registration) Feb. 1 - Feb. 14, 2025

Price includes meals and overnight accommodations. Scholarships are available.

Contact: Heather Oberle (hoberle@wepc.org)

Young Adult Ministry

Next Meeting: Neighborhood Caroling

Dec 5 / 6 PM / Fellowship Hall

Young Adults at WEPC is for those in their 20s & 30s looking for a space to grow in their faith and connect with others. We currently meet every other Thursday night. To find out more info, contact Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org).

The Table

Every Friday / 12-1 PM / Room 810

The Table is an informal, weekly gathering to pray and fellowship as a church. We'll have a short devotional, pray for the needs of the church, each other, and eat lunch together!

Please bring a packed lunch. No need to RSVP; all are welcome! Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Homework Time:** Tuesdays / 6-8 PM
- **Youth Group:** Dec 4 / Youth Lounge
- **Girls Christmas Day:** Dec 7 / 2-5 PM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

Sundays

- **9 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old)
- **10:30 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Children's Message or 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 10:30 AM worship service.
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (*service audio available during both services*)

Kids Club

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

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study

2nd & 4th Sundays / 5-6:30 PM / Room 810

Next Meeting: December 8

Join our multicultural community twice a month as we meet to study the Bible using the Gospel of Mark. Contact: Changjwok Deng (changjwok@wepc.org)

Sewing & Knitting Group

Wednesdays / 9:30 AM - 12 PM / Room 23

Calling all women who enjoy sewing/knitting/crocheting to participate in a weekly hobby time while helping our neighborhood friends learn how to sew and knit. Contact: Donna MacBride (73dls@gmail.com)

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Please continue to check our [weekly list](#) to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

Food Item Teams:

Reach for Team Peach! (canned peaches)

Give the Fry Team a try! (oil & salt)

Team Garbanzo, you rock! (dry or canned)

Way to Go, Team Tomato! (canned tomatoes)

Shine! Join Team Star Baker! (flour & sugar)

MISSIONS

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

Angel Tree gifts due back TODAY, December 1!

Contact: Steve Glissman (steveglissman@gmail.com)

STEP Christmas Store unwrapped gifts due back TODAY, December 1!

November 2024 Spain Mission Trip Update

December 8 / 9 AM / Fellowship Hall
Come hear how God worked during the recent trip to serve Serge missionary children. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

Málaga, Spain English Camp

June 26 - July 6, 2025

This trip will run an English camp for children & youth and initiate contacts to aid evangelism and future church planting. Cost: \$880 + airfare
Application [here](#). Deadline for application is January 1, 2025. More information [here](#).
Contact: Rebecca Perry (we4perrys@gmail.com)

Boas Opedun's Visual Storytelling Gallery

Fellowship Hall

Come see work by WEPC Missionary in Residence, Boas Opedun. www.boasopedun.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Taylor Miller, Sean Winterhalter, Cory Payne, & Chris Perry

Sermon Audio Available as a Podcast

The sermon audio now will be available on both the [Apple Podcast](#) and [Spotify](#) platforms, in addition to WEPC's [Sermons & Media](#) website page. It should be uploaded weekly by end of day on Mondays. You can find it by searching for "West End Presbyterian RVA" on either platform. As a reminder, a [Worship Study Guide](#) with sermon questions is also posted each Sunday.

DivorceCare Mens Group: Fall 2024

Tuesdays through Dec 10 / 7:30-9 PM / Chapel
Join us for a Christ-centered program addressing the complexity of life when facing marital separation or divorce. Register [here](#). Contact: Bryan (Bryanlfinch@gmail.com) or Matt (Osengam@hotmail.com)

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 11/24/2024):

Operating gifts YTD: \$856,485.32

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$924,221.91

% of expected budget received: 92.67%

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at WEPC

Advent Communion Worship Service:

Every Longing Heart

TONIGHT! / 7 PM / Chapel

Advent is a season of waiting. As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth, we all know grief, loss, and longing. Join us as we gather for a service of remembrance, redemption, and hope. At this service we will lament the losses experienced in this broken world, and look expectantly in hope to Jesus, the Desire of every nation, the true Joy of every longing heart.

Advent 2024 Devotional

A weekly worship devotional to guide the church in celebrating the coming of our Savior through Scripture, prayer, and song. Available TODAY online and in the church gallery.

Neighborhood Caroling

Dec 5 / 6 PM / Fellowship Hall

God visited His people and we share His love when we visit our neighbors. Join us for a night of fellowship and Christmas caroling as we visit with folks from our neighborhood! We'll go caroling near the church and then enjoy some dessert together, so bring some cookies to share! RSVP to Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org) if you can make it or with any questions.

Kids Club Christmas Pageant

December 11 / 6:30 PM / Sanctuary

Join us as Kids' Club celebrates our Savior's birth by sharing the Nativity story. Reception to follow in the Gallery.

Christmas Eve Services

- **4 PM: 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.
- **7 PM: Communion Service of Lessons & Carols** celebrating our Savior's Advent through Scripture and song.
- **Scripture Readers Needed:** If you are interested in reading Scripture at the 4 PM or 7 PM Christmas Eve services, please contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org).

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.