



West End

presbyterian church

The Second 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

FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND

"We wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

--*Titus 2:13*

"On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light."

--*Zechariah 14:6-7*

"Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices."

--*Placide Cappeau*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Zechariah 2:10-13

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.

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord.

And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people.

And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.

And the Lord will inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem."

Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He has roused himself from His holy dwelling.

Invocation.

Asking God to be with us.

INVOCATION

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF ADORATION

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, Thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free;
 2. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, He whose glo - ries knew no end;
 3. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in Thee.
 by His life He brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - e - ver, now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Lea - ving rich - es with - out num - ber, born, with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By Thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit, rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 this the ev - er - las - ting won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by Thine all suf - fi - cient me - rit, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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.

"And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD." Isaiah 59:20

Charles Wesley
 Rowland Hugh
 Richard.
 Public Domain.
 CCLI #708363

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

Luke 21:20-28

“When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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



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

You can place your offering and/or tear-off as the plates pass. Please visit www.wepc.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).



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).

HE WHO IS MIGHTY

VERSE

1. Oh, the mer - cy our God has shown to those who sit in death's sha-dow.
2. Oh, the free - dom our Sav - ior won; the yoke of sin has been bro - ken.

The sun on high pierced the night; born was the Cor - ner - stone.
Once a slave, now by grace no more con - dem - na - tion.

REFRAIN

Un - to us a Son is gi - ven, un - to us a Child is born. He Who is might - y has
done a great thing; ta - ken on flesh, con - quered death's sting,

BRIDGE

shat - tered the dark - ness and lift - ed our shame. Ho - ly is His name. Now my
soul mag - ni - fies the Lord; I re - joice in the God Who saves, I will trust His un -
fail - ing love, I will sing His prais - es all my days. My

"For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."
Luke 1:49

Rebecca Elliott
Kate DeGraide,
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(BMI/Sovereign
Grace Worship
ASCAP). Used by
permission.
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"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

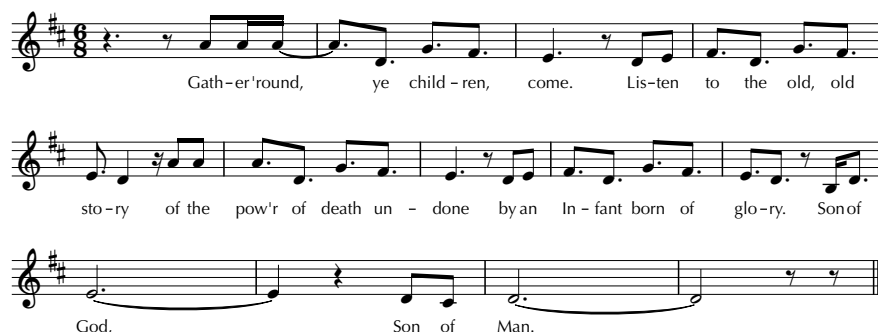
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

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)

Andrew Peterson
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GATHER ROUND YE CHILDREN, COME



Gath-er'round, ye child-ren, come. Lis-ten to the old, old
sto-ry of the pow'r of death un - done by an In - fant born of glo-ry. Son of
God, Son of Man.

GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:3-5

³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

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

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

from Mark 14:16-25

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, You created man from the dust of the earth and made and formed him in Your image and likeness—good, just, and holy; we were able by our own will to conform in all things to Your perfect will.

adapted from Protestant Reformation confessions by Guy de Brès and John Calvin

But when we were in honor we did not understand it, and we did not recognize our excellence. We subjected ourselves willingly to sin and consequently to death and the curse, listening to the word of the devil. For we transgressed the commandment of life, which we had received, and by our sin we separated ourselves from You, our true Life, and we corrupted our entire nature.

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.

So we made ourselves guilty and subject to physical and spiritual death, we became wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all our ways. We forfeited all the excellent gifts which we had received from Your hand, and we retained none of them except for small traces which are enough to make us inexcusable.

Moreover, all the light in us is turned to darkness, as the Scripture teaches us: "The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not receive it." Here John calls all of us "darkness."

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

from Colossians 1:12-14

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.

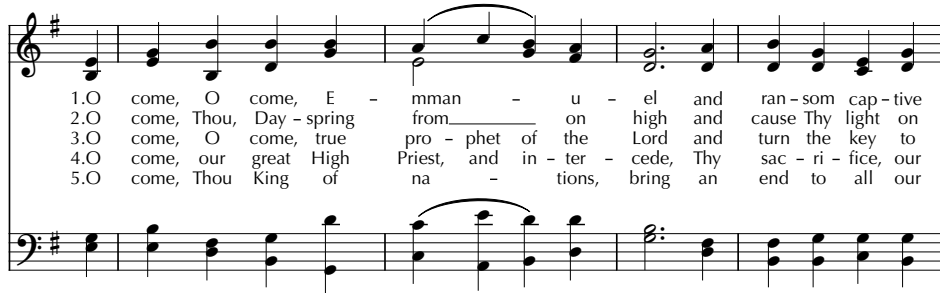
If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

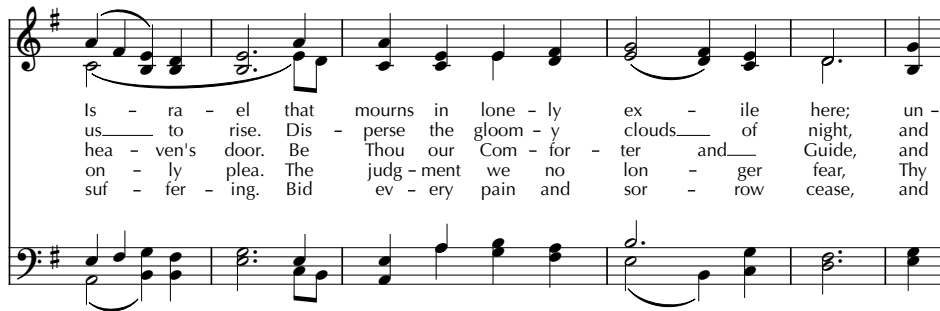
O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

"They will call Him Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:23

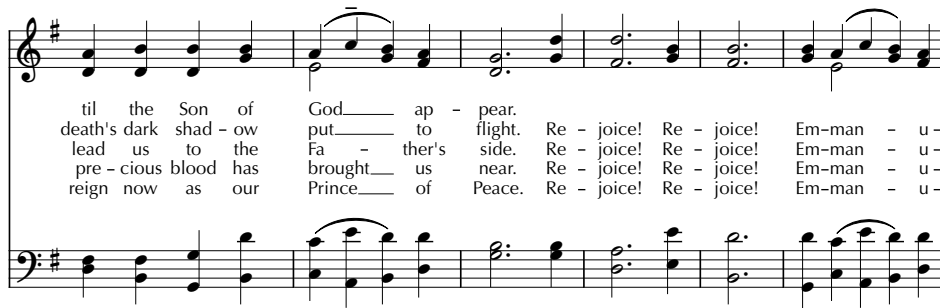
Latin Hymn (12th century), trans. John Mason Neale (1851); Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (13th century). Public Domain.



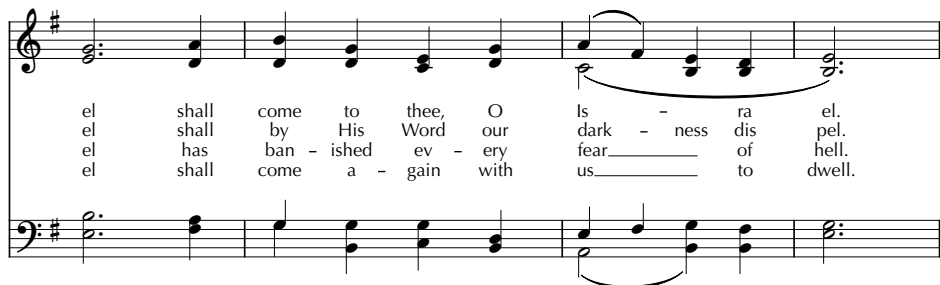
1. O come, O come, E mman - u - el and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou, Day - spring from - on high and cause Thy light on
 3. O come, O come, true pro - phet of the Lord and turn the key to
 4. O come, our great High Priest, and in - ter - cede, Thy sac - ri - fice, our
 5. O come, Thou King of na - tions, bring an end to all our



Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here; un -
 us - to rise. Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 hea - ven's door. Be Thou our Com - for - ter and Guide, and
 on - ly plea. The judg - ment we no lon - ger fear, Thy
 suf - fer - ing. Bid ev - ery pain and sor - row cease, and



til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ow put - to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 lead us to the Fa - ther's side. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 pre - cious blood has brought us near. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 reign now as our Prince of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -



el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 el shall by His Word our dark - ness dis - pel.
 el has ban - ished ev - ery fear of hell.
 el shall come a - gain with us to dwell.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa
Michael Bleecker ©2012
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COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

1. Come, be - hold the won-drous mys - tery, in the dawn-ing of the King. He, the
 2. Come, be - hold the won-drous mys - tery, He the per - fect Son of Man. In His
 3. Come, be - hold the won-drous mys - tery, Christ the Lord up - on the tree. In the
 4. Come, be - hold the won-drous mys - tery, slain by death the God of life. But no

theme of heave-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man-i - ty. In our
 liv - ing, in His suf - fering, nev - er trace nor stain of sin. See the
 stead of ru - ined sin - ners, hangs the Lamb in vic-tor - y. See the
 grave could e'er re - strain Him; praise the Lord; He is a - live! What a

long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come! Look to
 true and bet-ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound man. Christ the
 price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold. Bring-ing
 fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance, how un - wav - er - ing our hope. Christ in

Christ who con-de - scend - ed, took on flesh to ran - som us.
 great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in Him we stand.
 man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un - meas - ured, love un - told.
 pow - er res - ur - rect - ed as we will be when He comes.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

*"Let us go to
Bethlehem and see."
Luke 2:15*

O Come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning.

come ye O come ye to Beth - le - hem.
sing all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven -
Jg - sus to thee. be of all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry of to the Fa - ther glo - ry in flesh ap - high - est;
Word of the ap - pear - ing.

come let us a - dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him, O

come let us a - dore Him Christ the Lord!

Attr. to John Francis
Wade (1751); Tune:
ADESTE FIDELES,
John Francis Wade,
Cantus Diversi (1751).
Public Domain.

*"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. **Trey Wickham, Sarah Shrader, Elder Tom Krieger, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Pat Reynolds, and Jake Bruning** led this morning's congregational singing. **Jay Smith and Rob MacBride** managed today's audio and video live stream. **AJ Anonick** managed the in-house video system.

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. 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

Men's Ministry: Second Monday

www.wepc.org/grow/men

December 9 / 6:30 PM / FH

Join us for our monthly gathering of men from WEPC and the community for food, fellowship, and Gospel teaching. Contact: Mike Glasgow (atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com)

Young Adult Ministry

Next Meeting: Dec 19 / 7 PM / Thomas' Home
Young Adults at WEPC is for those in their 20s & 30s looking for a space to grow in their faith and connect with others. Join us for our Christmas Party and bring a funny gift for the game (\$20 limit). Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

The Table

Every Friday / 12-1 PM / Room 810

December 13 will be our last meeting of 2024.

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. Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry: 2025 Women's Retreat

www.wepc.org/grow/women

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)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Homework Time:** Tuesdays / 6-8 PM
- **Youth Group:** Dec 11 / Youth Lounge

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)

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study

TONIGHT! / 5-6:30 PM / Room 810

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. Contact: Donna MacBride (73dlsm@gmail.com)

MISSIONS

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

November 2024 Spain Mission Trip Update

TODAY! / 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)

Medical Outreach in Kintampo, Ghana

Oct 31 - Nov 7, 2025

This trip will provide medical services for an underserved population in partnership with SIM Ghana. Priority given to trained medical professionals. Cost: \$2,800 including airfare; more information on [SIM's website](#). Contact Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org) for trip information packet.

1823 COLLEGE-AGED MINISTRY

Winter Break Gatherings!

Sundays, December 15-January 5 / 9 AM
ALL young adults (approx. ages 18-23, post high school, in college, working, taking a gap year) are invited to join us during the Sunday School hour for some fellowship and Bible study. Also, plans are being made for a couple of lunch or dinner outings. Contact: Kristin Tetterton (kdstetterton@gmail.com)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

www.wepc.org/advent-christmas/

Advent 2024 Devotional

A weekly worship devotional to guide the church in celebrating the coming of our Savior through Scripture, prayer, and song. Available [online](#) and in the church Gallery.

WEPC Advent 2024 Spotify Playlist

Check out our [Advent 2024 Spotify Playlist](#) to sing along to Advent hymns and songs as we celebrate Christ's first coming and wait expectantly for Him to come again. You can find it by searching "WEPC Advent 2024" or "West End Presbyterian RVA + playlists."

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 7 PM Christmas Eve service, please contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org).

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

We have some CRITICAL food item needs. Please continue to check our [weekly list](#) or join a [Food Item Team](#) to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Brian Zollinhofer, Tim Andrews, Stan Cover, & EJ Fogarty

Congregational Meeting

January 5 / 12 PM / Sanctuary

Please join us for the purpose of voting to call Assistant Pastor Isaiah Thomas as an Associate Pastor, with no change in the terms of his call. All are welcome to attend; church members will vote.

Night to Shine 2025: Registration Now Open!

February 7, 2025 / WEPC

Join us for a prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with disabilities.

Registration is now open for guests & volunteers at www.nighttoshinerva.com. We need many volunteers to help, from buddies to dining room servers, welcome team, and more! Contact: Blair Brown (blairmb@gmail.com) or Heather Jarvis (heather.p.jarvis@gmail.com) or visit the table in the Gallery to learn more!

2025 DivorceCare Men & Women's Group

Tuesdays, February 4 - April 29 / 7:30-9 PM

Join us for a 13-week Christ-centered program addressing the complexity of life when facing marital separation or divorce. The program includes video teaching from over 50 leading Christian counselors, teachers, and pastors, group discussion, and personal Bible study. 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)

Sermon Audio Available as a Podcast

The sermon audio now will be available on both the [Apple Podcast](#) and [Spotify](#) platforms. 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.

Fiscal Year Giving Report (as of 12/1/2024):

Operating gifts YTD: \$900,993.40

Forecasted gifts YTD: \$967,546.14

% of expected budget received: 93.12%

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.