

The Sixth Sunday in Lent: Palm Sunday

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a time to ask God to help us confront our own mortality and sinfulness, to ask Him to show us our need for grace, to grow in repentance, and to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent—the period between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter—lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

Each Sunday this Lent, we will sing "Lord, Have Mercy" and hear stories of how Jesus is revealing Himself to His people, leading us to repent, becoming like Him in His death, and attaining His resurrection (Philippians 3:10-11).

Zechariah 9:9-10,16-17

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.

Preparation for Worship & Communion

I AM THE TRUE VINE

"A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. A law can compel work; only love can spontaneously bring forth fruit."

--Andrew Murray

"We cannot love grace into a child, nor mercy into a friend; we cannot love them into heaven, though it may be the greatest desire of our soul... But now the love of Christ, being the love of God, is effectual and fruitful in producing all the good things which He wills unto His beloved. He loves life, grace, and holiness into us; He loves us also into covenant, loves us into heaven."

—lohn Owen

Call to Worship

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

His rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of His people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on His land.

For how great is His goodness, and how great His beauty!

Invocation. Asking God to be with us.

Invocation

Song of Adoration

JESUS, I COME



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.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Words: William Sleeper. Music: Greg Thompson. ©2000 Cardiphonia Music. Used by permission. 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 <u>Keep in Touch form</u> 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.

STORIES FROM THE CHURCH: Jesus Makes Himself Known

During this season of Lent, brothers and sisters from our church will share the ways Jesus is revealing Himself to us, His people. These testimones will be included in each week's worship study guide. Katie Funk

OLD TESTAMENT & GOSPEL READINGS

Isaiah 27:6

In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Ministry of Prayer

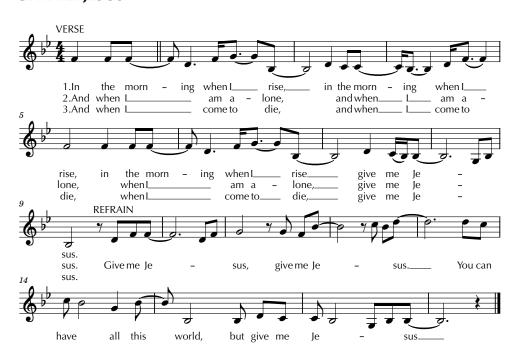
Offering

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

GIVE ME JESUS



"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words." Psalm 17:6

African-American Spiritual

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

"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

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

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

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." When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." 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."

Luke 22:7-8, 14-16, 19-20, 29-30

Confession of Sin

Psalm 139:1-2,7,23-24

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.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Silent Confession of Sin

Praying to the Lord for mercy is a worship practice with roots in ancient Israel (Psalm 51:1), and heard in the cries of those who came to Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew 15:22, 17:15, 20:30). As a part of confessing our sin in worship this Lent, the followers of Jesus expectantly sing, "Lord, have mercy".

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Luke 18:13; Ancient Greek hymn, 4th century

Kevin Greene, 2017.

KYRIE ELEISON (LORD, HAVE MERCY)







Words of Encouragement

In my anguish I cried to the Lord; and He answered by setting me free. The Lord is with me. The Lord is my Strength and my Song; He has become my Salvation.

from Psalm 118

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.

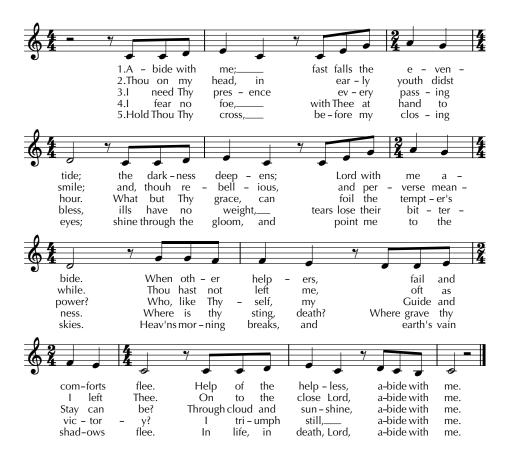
If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

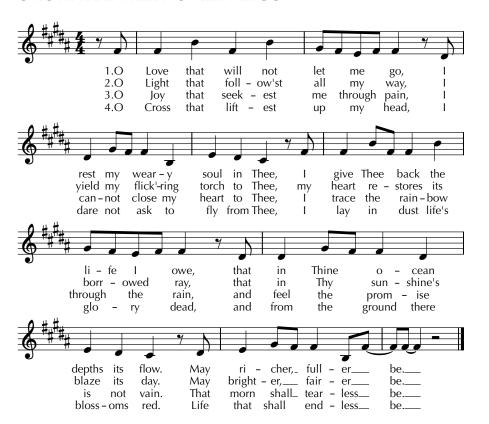
"Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." Luke 24:29

Text: Henry Lyte (1847) Music: Justin Smith ©2007 Justin Smith Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

ABIDE WITH ME



O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO



"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. "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 Lord's Supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Elder Tom Krieger, Sarah Shrader, Sonya Smith, Pat Reynolds, and Paul Cho 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

April 13: Final 1 Peter Class

• **April 20**: Fellowship & Testimony

April 27: Responding to Your Héart's Burdens

• May 4: Mission Update with the Mussers

Young Adult Ministry

Meets every other Thursday / 7 PM Next Meeting: April 24

Young Adults at WEPC is for those in their 20s & 30s looking for a space to grow in their faith and connect with others. In this season, we are listening to personal stories of God's redemption in our lives. Contact: Matt (matt@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies

Join us as we continue studying the Sermon on the Mount. New women are welcome. Wellspring: Tuesdays / 9:15-11:30 AM Restore: Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM Contact: Brice Bowman (brice@wepc.org)

The Table Fellowship & Prayer

Fridays / 12 - 1 PM / Room 810
The Table is an informal gathering to pray and fellowship as a church, open to anyone that would like to attend. We'll have a short devotional, pray for the needs of the church and each other, and eat lunch together. Please bring a packed lunch. No need to RSVP.
Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

WCPC Community Preschool

Preschool Scholarship Fundraiser - The Giving Grid

Each year we give scholarships so children from our church and neighborhood can attend preschool - to learn and hear about Jesus. Our annual scholarship needs are around \$15,000. We're launching a new fundraiser called The Giving Grid! Blocks 1-200 are up for grabs. Our goal is to fill every block and raise \$20,100! Claim a number (or multiple) and donate that amount. Thank you in advance for your support! www.wepc.org/preschool/giving-grid

Preschool Enrollment - Still Open

Classes available for 1-5 year olds! Come join us! Visit <u>wepc.org/preschool</u> or contact Casey Zollinhofer (casey@wepc.org).

Missions

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

WEPC Short Term Mission Team Interest Meeting Egypt: October 2025

April 27 / 12 PM / Room 160
Join us for an interest meeting to hear about staffing a vision clinic in partnership with WEPC Supported Mission Partner, Mafdi (SeeJesus Arab World Trainer) and a local church in Sohag, Egypt. Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

CrossOver Saturday Mission Clinic

May 3 / 8 AM - 12 PM

Are you a doctor, nurse, or Spanish language interpreter who would be willing to give a Saturday morning to serve our neighbors through WEPC supported missions partner, Crossover's Quioccasin Road Clinic? Contact: Amanda Stark (amandablairstark@gmail.com)

Young Lives Childcare Team Needed

July 5-9 / Rockbridge, VA A team of WEPC men and women, teens through adults, is forming to do childcare at a Young Lives (WEPC Missions Partner) camp, impacting teen parents and their children with the Gospel. Contact: Joyce Lawrence (jcl7577@comcast.net) or Heather Oberle (hoberle@wepc.org).

Neighborhood Outreach Ministry

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study

2nd & 4th Sundays / 5-6:30 PM / Room 810 Next Meeting: TONIGHT! Join our multicultural community twice a month as we meet to study the Bible using the book of Acts. Contact: Changjwok Deng (changjwok@ wepc.org)

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

Kids Club

Wednesdays / 6-7:30 PM / K-5th Grade Join us for Bible teaching, games, crafts, and fellowship!

Youth Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- Youth Sunday School: 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- Homework Time: Tuesdays / 6-8 PM
- **Youth Group:** April 16

Wraparound Ministry

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

STEM Event for Foster Care Children

April 26 / 4-7 PM / Fellowship Hall

WEPC is hosting a STEM-focused event for kids in foster care and we need volunteers! Please click <u>HERE</u> for more info and to sign-up. Contact: Ali Fogarty (alifogarty@gmail.com)

FOOD Pantry

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Volunteers Needed

Our food pantry rotating teams are in need of additional volunteers to serve our neighbors on Sundays after worship from 12-1:30 PM. Contact: Jim and Chris Black (jim_black@verizon.net)

Food Items Needed

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

Jon Greenhill, Tim Andrews, & Matt Mailloux

Church Workday

April 26 / 9 AM - 12 PM

Everyone ages 14+ welcome! Please RSVP to Mike Glasgow (atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com) or Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org) for further information and to receive updates.

2025 DivorceCare Men & Women's Group

Tuesdays through May 6 / 7-9 PM / Room 810 Join us for a Christ-centered program addressing the complexity of life when facing marital separation or divorce. Register at www.divorcecare.org/findagroup. Contact: Bryan Finch (Bryanlfinch@gmail.com) or Matt Osenga (Osengam@hotmail.com)

More ONE AND DONE Greeters Needed!

WEPC greeting teams are looking for 6 (1st service only) greeters to join our 10 rotating teams. These "one and done" greeters would welcome folks at the side door and finish up at 9:30 AM. Contact: karen@wepc.org

Lent & Caster 2025 at WCPC

www.wepc.org/lent-and-easter

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and ends on the Saturday before Easter, April 19. Lent, a tradition from the early centuries of church history, is a season of preparation preceding the celebration of Easter, focused on repentance. Speaking biblically, to repent means to make a change in our attitudes, words, and lifestyle. Those who follow Jesus must learn that we must die before we rise. Beginning when we first trust Christ, and continuing throughout our lives, we turn more and more away from sin and self-centeredness and instead turn more and more to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Worship Services

Maundy Thursday Meal & Communion Service April 17 / 6 PM / Fellowship Hall

Join us as we gather around tables for a simple, church-wide potluck meal and worship service to remember Christ's work on the cross, to celebrate communion, and to respond to Christ's mandate to serve each other.

- Simple meal begins at 6 PM, followed immediately by the communion service where an offering will be taken up for the Deacon's fund. We will be in the Fellowship Hall for both portions of the evening.
- If you would like to help with a portion of the service, such as setup, bringing food, and cleanup, sign up <u>here!</u> Contact: Kristin Tetterton (<u>kristin@wepc.org</u>)

•Good Friday / April 18 / 7 PM / Sanctuary

This service of corporate prayer, Scripture reading, confession, and celebration of our Lord's death helps us consider and respond to the crucifixion and atonement of Jesus Christ for us. An offering will be taken up for the Deacon's fund for those interested in giving.

• Easter Sunday / April 20 / 9 & 10:30 AM

Lent 2025 Devotional

A weekly worship devotional to guide the church in practicing repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's victory over death through Scripture, prayer, and song. Available in the Gallery & online.

WEPC Lent 2025 Playlist

Listen to this soundtrack to sing along with Lenten songs of repentance and dependence on God. Many of these songs are sung in our worship services and are also used in our Lent 2025 Devotional.

Keep in Touch

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



Date:			
Name:			
Children's Names:			
Address:			
City:			
Phone:			
Email:			
Who invited you to WEPC?	How did you	first hear abou	ıt us?

♦ Check if this is <u>NEW</u> contact information for you.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- ♦ Visitor <u>Age</u>
- ♦ Male
 ♦ 20 or younger
- ♦ Female
 ♦ Single
 ♦ Student (Grade ___)
 ♦ 35-49
- ♦ Student (College)♦ 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 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.