

GOD THE FATHER CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

The First Sunday in Advent In the Christian year, Advent is a time that helps us to

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

GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."

--I Timothy 2:5-6

"God's purpose was not only to secure our sonship by His Son, but to assure us of it by His Spirit. He sent His Son that we might have the status of sonship, and He sent His Spirit that we might have an experience of it." --John Stott

"It is here in the thing that happened at the first Christmas that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie, the Word was made flesh, God became man, the divine Son became a Jew, the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby... And there was no illusion or deception in this. ... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets."

-- J.I. Packer

Call to Worship

Romans 13:11

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

Asking God to be with us.

The hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Invocation

Declaration of Faith

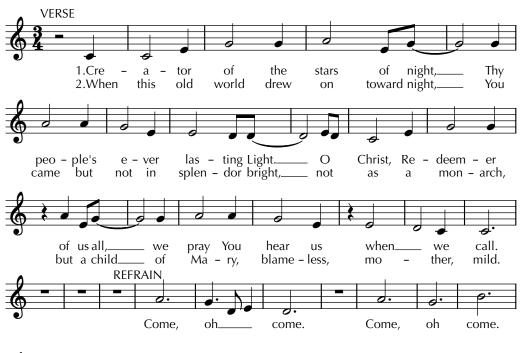
from the Belgic Confession (1561) Article 17

We believe that our good God, by His marvelous wisdom and goodness, seeing that man had plunged himself into both physical and spiritual death and made himself completely miserable, set out to find him, though man, trembling all over, was fleeing from Him.

And He comforted him promising to give him His Son, "born of a woman," to crush the head of the serpent, and to make him blessed.

Song of Adoration

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT



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.

"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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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.

Presentation of New Members (10:30am)

Barry Hunte Emma Grace McNamee

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:67-79, Zechariah's song as he waited for the Savior, "Benedictus" Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Ministry of Prayer

OUR LORD, COME

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

> Kevin Greene 2015



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).



COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY



"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
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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

GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

Scripture Reading

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

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

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover.

from Matthew 26:17-29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Confession of Sin

Holy God, You have prepared Your salvation in the presence of all peoples, yet we are lukewarm about Your Son's coming. We confess that we have not followed the light of Your Word, and have not been consoled by Your presence. Too often we have sought comforts of our own design, and have refused His peace on earth. Forgive our unbelief, and renew us by Your Holy Spirit that we might eagerly worship You. Help us once again find the coming and work of our Savior to be our greatest joy. Amen.

Silent 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.

Words of encouragement

from Colossians 1:12-14

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.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

First Communion

Emma Grace McNamee (10:30 AM)

Emma Grace recently met with the Elders, who heard her testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the McNamee family to receive communion first.

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. 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





"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. "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him." Revelation 1:7

St. 1-2 Charles Wesley (1758); St. 3-4 John Cennick (1752); alt. Martin Madan (1760); Music Adapted from Zac Hicks, ©2009 Unbudding Fig Music (ASCAP). Used by permission.

LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING



COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS



"'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 Prichard. 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-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. Trey Wickham, Sarah Shrader, Tim Drummond, Doug Cherrington, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and Troy Arnold led this morning's congregational singing. Greg Stiles and Deacon Chris May 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

Sunday Morning Discipleship: 9 AM

- November 30: Egypt Mission Team Update Fellowship Hall
- December 7-21: Advent Class / Room 810
 Advent is the four-week season in the
 Christian calendar that leads to Christmas.
 Join us as we study God's word to prepare
 our hearts for Christmas. Taught by Matt
 Bouknight and Peter Mellis.

Young Adult Fellowship

Next Meeting: December 15 Join us for our Christmas Party! Young Adults at WEPC is a place to grow in your faith and connect with others. We have small groups that meet weekly and gather for events throughout the year. Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies:

Wellspring: Tuesdays AM Restore: Wednesdays PM

Join us for this year's study "SHE IS..." Women as God's Image-Bearers. All women are welcome. Register Now! Contact: Brice Bowman

(brice@wepc.org)

The Table Fellowship & Prayer

Resumes December 5 Fridays / 12-1 PM / Room 810

The Table is an informal gathering to pray and fellowship as a church, open to anyone. We'll have a short devotional, pray for the needs of the church and each other, and eat a packed lunch together. Contact: Matt (matt@wepc.org)

Youth Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- Youth Sunday School: 9 AM
- Youth Group: December 3 Middle School: 6-7:30 PM High School: 7:30-9 PM
- MS Boys NFL Watch Party: TODAY! / 12PM
- HS Girls Christmas Sleepover: date TBD
- MS Girls Cookie Decorating: December 6

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 Message or Worship (4 years-2nd grade; Children's Worship does not meet on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- Nursing Mom¹s Room (service audio available during both services)

Wednesdays: Club 4/5 / 6-7:30 PM

Volunteers Needed:

9AM Nursery (needed every 8 weeks)

5 Adult Nursery Voluntéers

Sensory Room Volunteers Needed

We are looking to train a small team of people who have a heart to work with friends with special needs, specifically during the 1st service. Older teens are welcome. Contact Audrey: (audrey@wepc.org)

Missions

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

Egypt Mission Team Update

TODAY! / 9 AM / Fellowship Hall Join us to hear from the Egypt Mission team about how Jesus was at work during their mission trip with WEPC mission partner Mafdi and the local church in Sohag, Egypt.

Angel Tree is Here!

Please visit the table in the gallery to pick your Angel Tree children. Angel Tree helps to provide gifts to the children of prisoners in the Richmond area. *Gifts needed by TODAY.* Contact: Steve Glissman (steveglissman@gmail.com)

STEP Christmas Store

Collecting donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children living in Gilpin Court. For more information on suggested items or volunteering, please visit STEP's website. Donations due at WEPC by TODAY.

Seeking Young Life Leaders at Godwin High School

WEPC Missions Parter YoungLife is seeking volunteers to introduce adolescents to Jesus and help them grow in their faith. This relational ministry needs at least one male and female adult leader to restart this great work at Godwin High School. To learn more, contact Young Life West End Director Tracy Payne (traypay@gmail.com).

Neighborhood Outreach Ministry

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study: The Parables of Jesus Resumes Dec 14 / 5-6:30 PM / Room 810 *meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays Join us in the study of the parables of Jesus. Parables are short stories used by Jesus to teach spiritual truths and lessons about the Kingdom of God, God's nature, and how we should live. Contact: Changjwok Deng (changjwok@wepc.org)

November Language of the Month: Farsi Visit the "Life in the Neighborhood" bulletin station to grab your learning resources.

General information

Deacons of the Week

Ed Bowman, Sean Winterhalter, EJ Fogarty, & Matt Mailloux

Hiring for ESL Nursery Coordinator

The Neighborhood Outreach Team is looking for an ESL Nursery Coordinator to manage ESL Nursery and care for little ones while their mothers learn English. It is a paid position for 10-12 hours a week, mostly Tuesdays/ Thursdays. However, there is room for discussion of added hours and responsibilities. For a position description, visit our website and for more info, contact Heather Glissman (heatheresl@wepc.org).

Wreath Making Workshop

December 5 & 6

307 Santa Clara Drive, 23229

Join us for a Wreath Making Workshop to make your own Christmas wreath! No prior experience is needed. You can bring your own greens (\$25) or have them provided for you (\$50). This event is held outdoors, rain or shine. Pre-registration is required and spots are limited. We hope you can join us for this festive and fun event! RSVP & SIGN UP HERE Contact: Brice (brice@wepc.org)

FOOD Pantry

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

Food Items Needed

Please continue to check our weekly list to help keep the shelves stocked for our neighbors.

advent & Christmas at Wepc

WEPC Christian Seasons Calendar & Art Gallery Join us as we reflect on the story of Jesus and His Church through a Christian Seasons Calendar & Weekly Devotional during 2025-2026. From His Advent to the ascension of Christ, this unique calendar unfolds the Christian story through Scripture, liturgical themes, and artwork from WEPC artists. Each WEPC household is gifted a calendar, available in the church gallery during the season of Advent. Visit the Fellowship Hall to see the original artwork of WEPC artists contributed to the calendar project, and sign up to receive weekly devotional reflections accompanying the calendar at <u>wepcchristianseasons.com</u>. Contact: Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org)

Advent Worship Service: Every Longing Heart TONIGHT! / 7 PM / Chapel

Advent is a season of waiting as we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth. 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 Joy of every longing heart.

Neighborhood Caroling

Dec 4 / 6 PM / Fellowship Hall Join us for a night of fellowship and Christmas caroling with your WEPC family! We'll go caroling near the church and then enjoy some dessert together, so bring some cookies to share! Contact: Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org)

WEPC Advent 2025 Spotify Playlist

Check out our <u>Advent</u> 2025 Spótify 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 2025" or "West End Presbyterian RVA + playlists."

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.

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 ___)
 ♦ Student (College)
 ♦ 50-64
- ♦ Student (College)♦ Married♦ 65 and older
- ♦ Parent♦ Widowed

I would like info about:

- ♦ WEPC
- ♦ Women's Ministry
- ♦ Men's Ministry
- ♦ Young Adult Ministry
- ♦ Childrens Ministry
- ♦ Youth Ministry
- ♦ Adult Classes
- ♦ Small 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.