



West End

presbyterian church

The Second Sunday in 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

BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW

"Christ was made under the law, that He might redeem them that were under the law. He suffered the law to accuse Him, to condemn Him, and to kill Him. This He did for our sakes."

--*Martin Luther*

"He who made man was made man; that the Ruler of the stars might be nourished at the breast, that Bread might be hungry, that the Fountain might thirst, that the Light might sleep, that the Way might be wearied by the journey."

--*Augustine*

"Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist? In His being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the Cross...in His incarnation, His taking flesh, and being born... In the creation, man was made in God's image; in the incarnation God was made in man's image... It was not fit for any to satisfy God's justice but man; none could do it but God."

--*Thomas Watson, Commentary on the Westminster Shorter Catechism*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 21:28

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.

Stand up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.

Invocation

Asking God to be with us.

Invocation

DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed, 325 AD

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

SONG OF ADORATION

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

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.



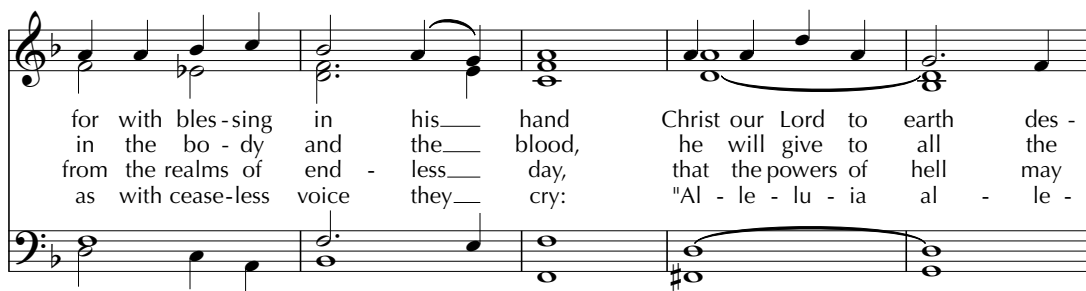
1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep — si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of — Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of — hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged se - raph, che - ru - bim, with

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

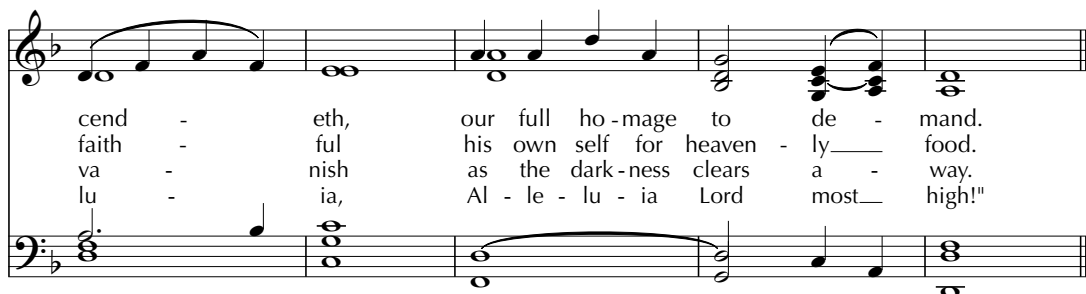


trem - bling — stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly — min - ded,
earth he — stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man — ves - ture,
on the — way, as the Light of light des - cend - eth
sleep - less — eye, veil their fa - ces to the — Pre - sence,

Words:
Anonymous,
7th Century.
Additional
Lyrics: Alex
Mejias. Music:
Alex Mejias
© 2009 5PM
Records. Used
by permission.
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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!"

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.

RULING ELDER EMERITUS RECOGNITION (10:30am)

Joe Bricker
Bob Littlepage
John McGurn
John Minor
John Scott
Phil Soldan

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Jeremiah 33:14-16

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).




"Then Mary said,
'My soul magnifies
the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God
my savior!'"
Luke 1:46-47

Music by Flo Paris
Oakes as recorded
by Rain for Roots on
Waiting Song. ©1999
Flo Paris Music.
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MAGNIFICAT

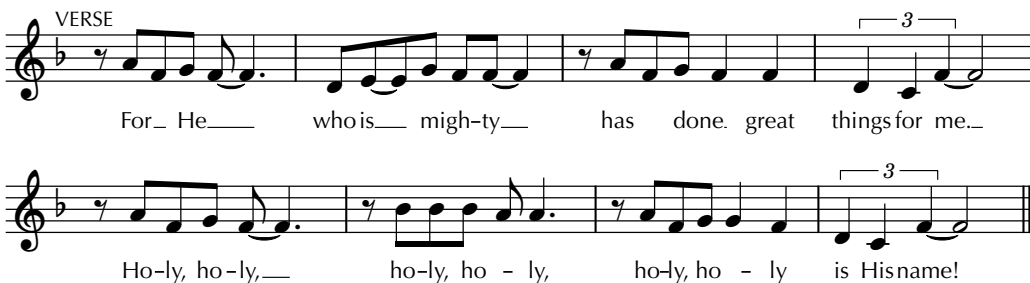
REFRAIN



My soul____ mag-ni-fies the Lord. Myspi - rit__ re - joices in__ God.

My soul____ mag-ni-fies the Lord. Myspi - rit__ re - joices in God..

VERSE



For_ He____ who is__ migh-ty__ has done. great things for me...

Ho-ly, ho-ly,____ ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly is Hisname!

CHILDREN's Message (10:30am)

Children, ages 4 through 2nd grade, are invited to the front of the Sanctuary prior to the sermon for a Bible lesson. Since there is no Children's Worship on the 1st Sunday of the month, children will join their parents back at their seats in the Sanctuary after the Bible lesson.

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

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."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Lord, You alone are full of grace and truth,
but we have not kept watch for You.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have sought our own glory above Yours.
We have not waited to find Your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of others around us.
We have not acknowledged Your favor
and the love that You have shown us.
Forgive us for our sins against You.
Heavenly Father, help us to yield to the wisdom of Your ways;
Lord Jesus, lead us to live in light of Your coming;
Holy Spirit, give us faith to see that You are truly among us;
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

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son,
and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins.

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. 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

COMFORT, COMFORT, O MY PEOPLE

*"Comfort, comfort
my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to
Jerusalem."
Isaiah 40:1-2*

Johannes Olearius
(1671); Tr. Catherine
Winkworth (1863)
Music: Seth Thomas
Crissman | Rachel
Mast (2022).
Used by permission.



1.Com-fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, speak of
2.Yes, her sins our God will par - don, blot-ting
3.Hear the voice of one who's cry - ing in the
4.Then make straight the croo - ked high - way, make the



peace, so says our God. Com-fort those who sit in
out each dark mis - deed. All that well de - served His
des - ert far and near, cal - ling peo - ple to re -
rough - er pla - ces plain. Let your hearts be true and



dark - ness groan-ing from their sor - row's load. Speak to
an - ger He no more will see or heed. She has
pen - tance for the king - dom now is here. O that
hum - ble, rea - dy for His ho - ly reign. For the



all Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them. Tell them
suf - fered man - y days, now her griefs havepassed a - way. God will
war - ning cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way! Let the
glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is spread a - broad! And all



that their sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is done.
change her long-ing sad-ness in - to ev - er-spring-ing joy.
val - leys rise to meetHim and the hills bow down to Him.
flesh hear love spo-ken, that His word is not bro - ken.

"'Yes, I am coming
soon.' Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20

AMEN, AMEN

Neil and Kate Robins,
©2003 Sojourn
Community Church;
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VERSE



1. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and _____ bring
2. Peace like a ri - ver from His _____ throne
3. And in this Child we'll find our _____ rest



their grate - ful prais - es to the _____ King. An - gels de - scend with
will flow to na - tions yet un - known. His Word a light where
and all the meek and low - ly _____ blessed. And in - fant tongues can



songs a - gain and earth re - peats a loud "A - men."
all hope is dim and all tribes unite to cry "A - men."
sing the hymn of "Hal - le - lu - jah and A - men."

REFRAIN



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men. My life is found, my



life is found in Him. A - men, a - men.

ALL THINGS NEW

*"Behold, I am
making all things
new."
Revelation 21:5*

Horatius Bonar
(1779); Tune: Clint
Wells, ©2010 Red
Mountain Music.
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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.

*"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, Luke Andrews, Mya Wilcox,
Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Pat Reynolds, Mollie Bowman, and
Pastor Kevin Greene led this morning's congregational singing. Tim Drummond
and Deacon Chris Scoggins managed today's audio and video live stream. Ethan
Molique managed the in-house video system. Children's Ministry Director Audrey
Snyder gave the Children's Message at the 10:30 AM service.*

Sermon Notes

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Sunday Morning Discipleship: Advent Class

Sundays in December / 9 AM / Room 810

Advent is the four week season in the Christian calendar that leads up to Christmas, and each Sunday carries a theme of hope, peace, joy, and love. We will study the deeper meanings of these words as we slow down, embrace hope, and live in joyful expectation of the coming Savior. Taught by Elder Matt Bouknight and Peter Mellis. Contact: Matt (matt@wepc.org)

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)

Men's Ministry - Second Monday

www.wepc.org/grow/men

December 8 / 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) or Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

Wednesday Night Fellowship

The Book of Jeremiah: Gladness from Sorrow

www.wepc.org/WNF

January 14 - March 25 / 6-7:30 PM / Chapel

The prophet Jeremiah's life was marked by grief and suffering, yet he knew the presence and perseverance of God. Join us as we grow in the wisdom, faithfulness, and compassion of Jesus Christ. Led by Kevin Greene and Becca Wethered. Contact: Kevin (kevin@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. 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)

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)

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **First Sunday Breakfast:** 9 AM / Fellowship Hall
- **Youth Group:** December 10
Middle School: 6-7:30 PM
High School: 7:30-9 PM
- **HS Girls Christmas Sleepover:** December 13-14
- **Christmas Party:** December 19

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study: The Parables of Jesus

December 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)

December Language of the Month: Portuguese

Visit the "Life in the Neighborhood" bulletin station to grab your learning resources.

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.

General Information

Deacons of the Week

David Creasy, Luke Shrader, Taylor Miller, & Rick McMahon

Give the Gift of Tutoring

Please consider donating 1 hour/week of your time (you choose the day and time) to tutor a Kindergarten-5th Grade student from the neighborhood around the church. Tutoring season runs January 5-May 25. Visit the table in the gallery or contact Talya (talya@wepc.org) to sign-up!

Hiring for ESL Nursery Coordinator

The Neighborhood Outreach Team is looking for an ESL Nursery Coordinator to manage the ESL Nursery and care for little ones. 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 more info, visit our [website](https://www.wepc.org) or contact Heather Glissman (heatheresl@wepc.org).

James River Presbytery Church Planting Summit

January 24 / 9 AM-12:30 PM

Stony Point Church (2330 Buford Road, 23235)
Speaker: Dr. Robert Kim, Associate Professor at Covenant Seminary

Join a collaboration of pastors and church members who are partnering together for church planting. Women, men, and youth are invited to learn about church-planting initiatives, collaborate on future opportunities to reach communities with the Gospel, and pray for the Spirit's leading in multiplying congregations. Registration is free at <https://tinyurl.com/4z728d69>. Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Financial Notes

Fiscal Year Budget:

FY 26 Actual (as of 11/30/25): \$1,040,621

FY 26 Budget (as of 12/31/25): \$1,357,946

Actual to Budget: 76.63%

Year End Giving

Please drop off any 2025 tax-deductible donations by 12 PM on 12/31 or make sure they are postmarked by 12/31. You can also drop off any contributions in the offering plates during either worship service on 12/28. Contact AmyCaroline Wilks (acwilks@wepc.org) with any questions.

Advent & Christmas

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. Additional calendars can be purchased [HERE](#). Visit the Fellowship Hall to see the original artwork of WEPC artists contributed to the calendar project. Contact: Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org)

WEPC Advent 2025 Spotify Playlist

Check out our [Advent 2025 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 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.
- **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
- ◇ 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.