



West End  
presbyterian church

### **The Third 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

### **TO REDEEM THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW**

"Conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

--*1 Peter 1:17b-19*

"O God, You make us glad with the yearly expectation of the birth of Christ, Your only Son. Grant that we, who hail Him with joy as our Redeemer, may also behold Him without fear when He comes to be our Judge; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

--*8th Century Prayer*

"I will sing of my Redeemer,  
And His heav'nly love to me;  
He from death to life hath brought me,  
Son of God with Him to be."

--*Phillip P. Bliss*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalms 130:3-8*

### **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.

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.  
And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

# INVOCATION

**Invocation**  
Asking God to  
be with us.

## DECLARATION OF FAITH

*Heidelberg  
Catechism 36  
(1563)*

How does the holy conception  
and birth of Christ benefit you?


**He is our Mediator,  
and with His innocence  
and perfect holiness  
He removes from God's sight my sin –  
mine since I was conceived.**

## SONG OF ADORATION

### COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

**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.

REFRAIN




For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. For



You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. Tru-ly our hope is in

VERSE



You, tru-ly our hope is in You. 1.O Lord of life, our on - ly  
2.O Joy a - bove all oth - er



hope, Your ra - diance shines on all who look to You in the  
loves, in You we find more than e - nough, we come as we



dark. E-mman - u - el come, comelight our hearts. For  
are, O heal and re - store, comelight our hearts.

*"Blessed is he  
whose help  
is the God of  
Jacob, whose  
hope is in the  
LORD his God"  
Psalm 146:5*

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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 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.*

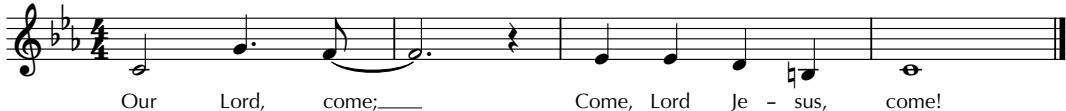
## Gospel Reading

*Luke 2:36-38;  
The account  
of Anna, who  
waited for  
the Lord's  
redemption*

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## 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](http://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).*



# MAKE A WAY

VERSE



1. Come, Son of God, and make us new; Light of the world, our  
 2. Come, prom-ised since our E - den's end; child of the wom - an, we  
 3. Come, Son of Man, to show the way. O, through the tears may we

hearts re-new. Hope in our in - ner dark - ness lies: oh, heal-ing Sun of  
 come, de-fend. Long have we felt the ser - pent's sting: come, strike his head, and  
 see the day. So long did we in dark - ness dwell. Come down to break the

1 2 REFRAIN

jus - tice rise! O make a way! o - pen wide the gates...  
 mer - cy bring! chains of hell!

O make a way! through the sor-row and the pain. O make a way!...  
 though the road is dark and wind - ing. O come, come! O

BRIDGE

come make a way! O come make a way! O come make a way!...  
 O come, come!

"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

Kate Bluett  
 Isaac Wardell  
 Paul Zach.  
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 Hymns/  
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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](http://www.wepc.org/grow/children)

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Galatians 4:4-5*

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to 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

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 Jesus Christ,  
Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,  
born in my birth, alive in my life,  
strong in my character, dominating my affections,  
following me as a shadow, intermingling with my every thought,  
my chain that holds me captive.  
Yet Your compassions yearn over me,  
Your heart hastens to my rescue,  
Your love endured my curse,  
Your mercy bore my justice,  
Your incarnation unites God and Man,  
And in Man crushes the Serpent's head.  
Let me walk in humility,  
cleansed in Your blood,  
tender of conscience,  
living in triumph over the world, the flesh and the devil  
as an heir of Your salvation  
through Your blessed name. Amen.

*Silent Confession of Sin*

*Puritan Prayer, from  
The Valley of Vision*

### **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

*based on Isaiah 40:1-2*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Your warfare is ended;  
Your sins are pardoned;  
The penalty for your rebellion is paid.

## 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](http://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

## WHO IS THIS, SO WEAK AND HELPLESS

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:7*

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Christopher Miner Music.  
Words: William How.  
Music: Christopher Miner. Used by permission.



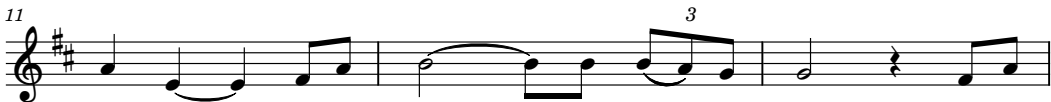
1. Who is — this so weak and help-less child of low - ly He - brew —  
2. Who is — this, a Man of Sor-rows, walk-ing sad - ly life's hard —  
3. Who is — this? Be-hold Him shed-ding drops of blood u - pon the —  
4. Who is — this that hangs there dy - ing while the rude world scoffs and —



— maid, rude - ly in a sta - ble shel - ter cold - ly  
— way, home-less, wea - ry, sigh-ing, weep - ing ov - er  
— ground! Who is — this, de-spised, re - jec - ted, mocked, in -  
— scorns, num-bred with the mal - e - fac - tors, torn with



in a man - ger — laid? Tis the Lord of all cre -  
sin and Sa - tan's sway? Tis our God, our glo-rious  
- sul - ted, bea - ten, — bound? Tis our God, who gifts and  
nails, and crowned with thorns? Tis our God who lives for -



a - tion who this wond - drous path has trod; He is  
Sa - vior, who a - bove the sta - ry sky is for  
gra - ces on His church is pour - ing down; who shall  
ev - er mid the shin - ing ones on high, in the



Lord from ev - er - las - ting and to ev - er - las - ting God.  
us — a place pre - par - ing, where no tear can dim the eye.  
smite in ho - ly ven-geance all His foes be-neath His throne.  
glor - ious gold-en ci - ty, reign-ing ev - er - last - ing - ly.

*"Glory to God in the  
highest, and on earth  
peace among those  
with whom he is  
pleased!" Luke 2:14*

## IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Edmund Sears, 1850.  
Public Domain.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2. And ye, be - neath life's cru - shing load, whose forms are ben - ding low,  
3. For lo! the days are has - tening on, by pro - phet seen of old,

from an - gels ben - ding near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gra - cious King."  
look now! for glad and gol - den hours come swift - ly on the wing.  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in so - lemn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

# VEILED IN DARKNESS JUDAH LAY

*"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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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."

*"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. Elder Chris Newlin, Erin Bouknight, Lauren Newlin, Buddy Miner, Doug Cherrington, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Win Benko, Donald Smith, and Jamison Taggart led this morning's congregational singing. Greg Stiles and Deacon Sean Winterhalter managed today's audio and video live stream. Cody Hahn managed the in-house video system.*

# Sermon Notes

# Announcements

## ADULT MINISTRY

[www.wepc.org/adults](http://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](mailto:matt@wepc.org))

### **Young Adult Fellowship Christmas Party**

December 15 / 7PM / Oberle's Place  
Join us for our Christmas Party! We will enjoy fellowship, play a Christmas gift game (Bring a fun/funny gift, \$20 or under), and be encouraged by God's Word. Contact: Matt Bouknight ([matt@wepc.org](mailto:matt@wepc.org))

### **Men's Ministry**

[www.wepc.org/grow/men](http://www.wepc.org/grow/men)

#### **Second Monday Rescheduled**

December 15 / 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](mailto:atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com))

#### **WEPC Men's Retreat**

January 30-February 1, 2025  
Crossroads Camp & Conference Center  
Join other men from WEPC as we go deeper in the Word, get to know others in a relaxed environment, step away from "everyday life," and have some great fellowship. Register [HERE](#). Contact: Mike ([atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com](mailto:atfmanhokie89@yahoo.com)) or Matt ([matt@wepc.org](mailto:matt@wepc.org))

### **Wednesday Night Fellowship**

#### **The Book of Jeremiah: Gladness from Sorrow**

[www.wepc.org/WNF](http://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, Matt Wilks, and Becca Wethered. Contact: Kevin Greene ([kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org))

## **Women's Ministry**

[www.wepc.org/grow/women](http://www.wepc.org/grow/women)

### **Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies will resume on January 13 & 14**

Wellspring: Tues AM / Restore: Wed PM

All women are welcome to join us for our study "SHE IS..." [Register HERE](#) Contact: Brice Bowman ([brice@wepc.org](mailto:brice@wepc.org))

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

[www.wepc.org/grow/children](http://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)
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (service audio available during both services)

**Wednesdays: Club 4/5 will resume on January 14**

## YOUTH MINISTRY

[www.wepc.org/grow/youth](http://www.wepc.org/grow/youth)

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9 AM / Fellowship Hall
- **Youth Group will resume on January 7**
- **Christmas Party:** December 19

## NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

[www.wepc.org/neighborhood](http://www.wepc.org/neighborhood)

### **Simple English Bible Study: The Parables of Jesus**

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

*\*No Dec 28 meeting; will resume on Jan 11*

Join us in the study of the parables of Jesus. Contact: Changiwok Deng ([changiwok@wepc.org](mailto:changiwok@wepc.org))

### **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. Visit the table in the gallery or contact Talya ([talya@wepc.org](mailto:talya@wepc.org)).

### **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](#) or contact Heather Glissman ([heatheresl@wepc.org](mailto:heatheresl@wepc.org)).

### **December Language of the Month: Portuguese**

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

## General Information

### Deacons of the Week

Stan Cover, Bryan Meeks, Chris May, & Chris Hennesey

### 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](mailto:acwilks@wepc.org)) with any questions.

### 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](mailto:kevin@wepc.org))

### Night to Shine 2026--Volunteers Needed

February 6 / 6-9 PM / WEPC

Join us as WEPC hosts Night to Shine, a prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with disabilities. We need many volunteers to help, including buddies, dining room servers, welcome team, and more! Register at [www.nighttoshinerva.com](http://www.nighttoshinerva.com) to volunteer. Contact Heather Jarvis ([heather.p.jarvis@gmail.com](mailto:heather.p.jarvis@gmail.com)) or Mollie Greenhill ([nighttoshine@wepc.org](mailto:nighttoshine@wepc.org)).

### Inclement Weather Reminder

For updates on closings and delays, visit [wepc.org](http://wepc.org) or call the office at (804) 741-6562. You may also visit the "Community Closings" page at [nbc12.com](http://nbc12.com). In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, WEPC will meet for the 10:30 AM service.

## 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. 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.

### 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.

### Sunday, December 28

WEPC will ONLY have the 10:30 AM worship service on December 28. All children are welcome to be in the service! There will be nursery for children ages infant - 3 years old, but no Sunday School classes (children, youth, or adult) or Children's Worship. Children's Ministry Director Audrey Snyder will give the Children's Message prior to the sermon.

## FOOD PANTRY

[www.wepc.org/mercyministry](http://www.wepc.org/mercyministry)

### Food Items Needed

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

# 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.