



West End

presbyterian church

The Fourth 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

THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE ADOPTION AS SONS

"The only Son of God, having become the Son of Man, makes many sons of men the sons of God."

--*Augustine*

"He became what we are that He might make us what He is."

--*Athanasius*

"Adoption is the highest privilege the Gospel offers... That justification--by which we mean God's forgiveness of the past together with His acceptance of the future--is the primary and fundamental blessing is not in question... Adoption is higher, because of the richer relationship with God that it involves."

-- *J.I. Packer*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Malachi 3:1-2

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.

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

Invocation

Asking God to be with us.

INVOCATION

DECLARATION OF FAITH

*from the Belgic
Confession (1561),
Article 18*

We profess that God fulfilled the promise
that He had made to the early fathers
by the mouth of His holy prophets
when He sent His only and eternal Son into the world
at the time set by Him.

**The Son took the “form of a servant”
and was made in the “likeness of man,”
truly assuming a real human nature,
with all its weaknesses, except for sin;
being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary
by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

And He not only assumed human nature
as far as the body is concerned
but also a real human soul,
in order that He might be a real human being.

**For since the soul had been lost as well as the body,
He had to assume them both to save them both together.
In this way He is truly our Immanuel—
that is: “God with us.”**

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.

Based on
Psalm 24

Georg Weissel
(1642), trans.
Catherine
Winkworth
(1855), Tune:
TRURO,
Psalmodia
Evangelica
(1789). Public
domain.

SONG OF ADORATION

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS YE MIGHTY GATES

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and G major. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the
2. A Help - er just He comes to thee, His char - iot
3. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
4. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for heavn's em -
Thee; here Lord, a - bide! Let me Thy in - ner pres - ence

near, the Sa - vior of the world is here.
ness, His scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
poy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
feel; Thy grace and love in me re veal.

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.

Presentation of new Members (10:30am)

Casey O'Dea, Talya Tacosa-O'Dea, & Eda Tacosa

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30am)

Eda Tacosa

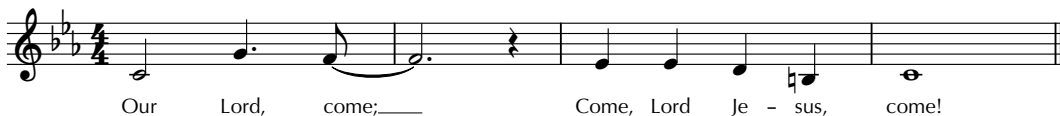
Gospel Reading

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:9-13

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).



“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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Integrity
Worship
Music/PG
Songs and
Hymns/
ASCAP. Used
by permission.

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,
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! hell! O make a way!
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!

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.wepec.org/grow/children

SCRIPTURE Reading

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.

Galatians 4:4-5

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 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, 19-20, 29-30

CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Belgic Confession,
Article 15(1561)*

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.

We believe that by the disobedience of Adam original sin has been spread through the whole human race. It is a corruption of all nature— an inherited depravity which even infects small infants in their mother's womb, and the root which produces in man every sort of sin. It is therefore so vile and enormous in God's sight that it is enough to condemn the human race, and it is not abolished or wholly uprooted even by baptism, seeing that sin constantly boils forth as though from a contaminated spring. Nevertheless, it is not imputed to God's children for their condemnation but is forgiven by His grace and mercy— not to put them to sleep but so that the awareness of this corruption might often make believers groan as they long to be set free from the “body of this death.”

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Romans 8:1-2, 23

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death... And we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

First Communion

Eda Tacosa (10:30 AM)

Eda recently met with the Elders, who heard her testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Tacosa-O'Dea 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.wepec.org/communion.

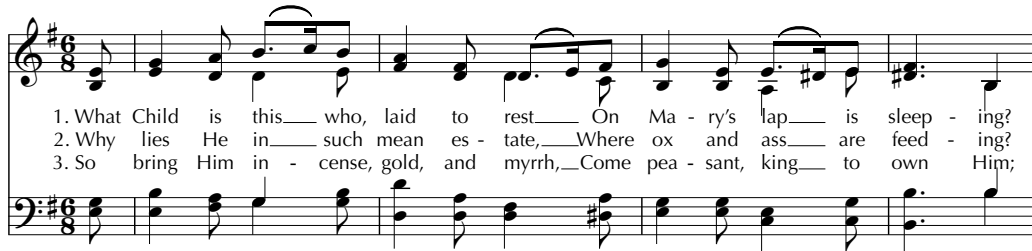
If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace


WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

*"They shall
call his name
Immanuel, which
means, God with
us."
Matthew 1:23*

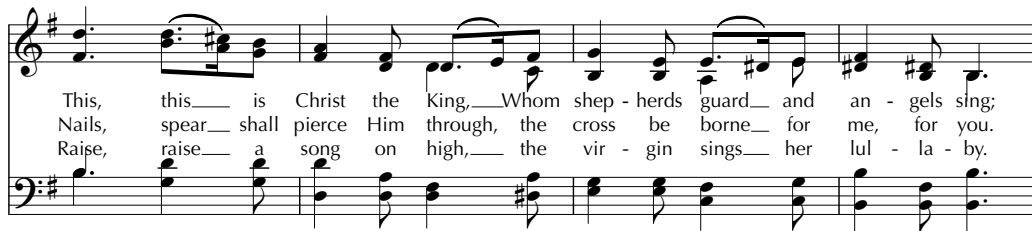
William C. Dix
(1868); Tune:
GREENSLEEVES,
16th century
English melody.
Public domain.



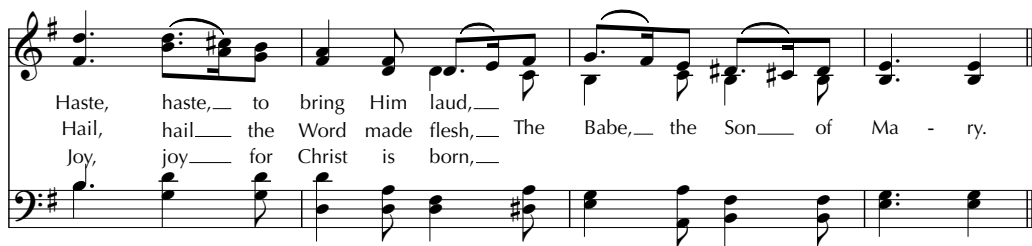
1. What Child is this— who, laid to rest— On Ma - ry's lap— is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies He in— such mean es - tate, Where ox and ass— are feed - ing?
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come pea - sant, king— to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet— with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch— are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners here— The si - lent Word— is plead - ing.
The King of kings— sal - va - tion brings, Let lo - ving hearts— en - throne Him.



This, this— is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard— and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear— shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne— for me, for you.
Raise, raise— a song on high, the vir - gin sings— her lul - la - by.



Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,—
Hail, hail— the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son— of Ma - ry.
Joy, joy— for Christ is born,—

“Surely I am
coming soon.’ Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus!”
Revelation 22:20

African-American
Spiritual.
Public Domain

WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE KING



1. Soon and ver - y soon_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____
2. No more cry - ing there,_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____
3. No more dy - ing there,_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____



Soon and ver - y soon_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____
No more cry - ing there,_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____
No more dy - ing there,_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____



Soon and ve - ry soon_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____
No more cry - ing there,_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____ Hal-le
No more dy - ing there,_____ we are go-ing to see the King!_____



lu - iah! Hal-le - lu - iah! We are go-ing to see the King!_____

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."
Luke 2:13-14

Charles Wesley
(1739); Tune:
MENDELSSOHN,
Felix Mendelssohn
(1840).
Public domain.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing;— "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail fix the in Sun of right-eous-ness!
Come, De - sire of Na - tions come,— Thy hum - ble home;

peace on earth and mer - cy mild,— God and sin - ners rec - on ciled!"
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.
rise, the Wo - man's conquering Seed,— bruise in us the Ser-pent's head.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise,— join the tri - umph of the skies;—
Mild he lays his glo - ry by,— born that man no more may die,—
A - dam's like - ness now ef - face,— stamp Thine i - mage in its place;—

with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is— born in Beth - le - hem!"
born to raise the sons of earth, born to— give them sec - ond birth.
Sec - ond A - dam from a - bove re - in - state us in Thy love.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry— to the new-born King!"

*"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.
Elder Roger Johnson led worship. **Pastor Kevin Greene**, **Worship Arts Director**
Becca Wethered, **Tucker Tetterton**, **Donald Smith**, **Suzie Bird**, and **Troy Arnold**
led this morning's congregational singing. **Ross Bruning** and **Rob MacBride**
managed today's audio and video live stream. **Micah Andrews** managed the in-
house video system.*

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)

Men's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/men

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 \(at\)manhokie89@yahoo.com](mailto:Mike(at)manhokie89@yahoo.com)) or Matt (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, Matt Wilks, and Becca Wethered. Contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry

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)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Youth Group will resume on January 7.**

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

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

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

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).

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).

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

Davison Long, Cory Payne, Jon Greenhill, & Stephen Hunn

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.

Fruit from Fruitful Friday!

A 4th grade boy from an ESL family fell in love with guitar at the Neighborhood Outreach Fruitful Friday last week. Do you have a new or used guitar that you'd be willing to donate so that this child can receive guitar lessons? Contact [Talya](#) to donate.

Financial Peace University Class

January 8-March 12 / 6 PM / Room 35
Financial Peace University is a biblically-based personal finance program that teaches people how to budget, get out of debt, save, invest, and build wealth through a 9-week course, using video lessons, group discussions, and practical tools. Contact & to register: Bill Shirey (bill.shirey1@gmail.com / 804.617.0221)

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)

Inclement Weather Reminder

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

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 to volunteer. Contact Heather Jarvis (heather.p.jarvis@gmail.com) or Mollie Greenhill (nighttoshine@wepc.org).

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. Sign up for the Weekly Devotional accompanying the calendar at wepcchristianseasons.com.

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.

One Great Family Worship

December 28 / 10:30 AM / WEPC Sanctuary

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.

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.