



West End
presbyterian church

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord. The Church now lives as those who are "risen with Christ," living under His rule.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

WE WAIT EAGERLY FOR ADOPTION

"A little child has confidence. He does not analyze it, he knows that Abba is his father... the little child comes running in, rushes right in... he has a right that no one else has."

--*D.M. Lloyd-Jones*

"Sometimes, when believers do not know how to pray in words, they groan without words... when we thus sigh with inarticulate desires, it is the Holy Spirit interceding on our behalf, prompting these deep longings."

--*John R.W. Stott*

"He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful; but that is what we are in for. Nothing less."

--*C.S. Lewis*

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 62:1-4,11-12

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

**No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate,
for the Lord will take delight in you.**

The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth:
"Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes!
See, His reward is with Him'."

**They will be called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of the Lord;**

And you will be called Sought After,
the City No Longer Deserted.

INVOCATION

Invocation
Asking God to be
with us.

SONG OF ADORATION

WE FALL DOWN



We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet____ of Je - sus, the



great-ness of mer-cy and love at the feet of Je - sus. And we cry



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, and we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -



- ly, and we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, is the Lamb.____

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.

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
Revelation 4:8

Chris Tomlin
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worshiptogether.
com songs
(Admin by. EMI
Christian Music
Publishing). Used
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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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hosea 1:2-10

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord." So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. And the Lord said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen." When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. And the Lord said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God." Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

OFFERING

You can place your offering and/or tear-off as the plates pass. Please visit www.wepc.org/giving, scan the QR code for online giving options, or mail your offering to the church office. All checks will be converted to electronic deposit.



TRINITY SONG



Ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, ho - ly com - mu - nion



Three in One. Come, with Your peace, with Your



in - vi - ta - tion, bind us to - ge - ther in ho - ly love.

*"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
Colossians 3:14*

Sandra McCracken,
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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

Children, age 4 through 1st 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

from Mark 14:16-25

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."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, grant us Your peace,
for we have made peace
with what does not give peace,
and we are afraid.

Forgive our sin and unbelief.
Open our eyes that we may see
our capacity to deceive
and willingness to be deceived,
our loving of things
and using of people,
our struggle for power
and shrinking of soul,
our devotion to comfort
and sedation of conscience,
our readiness to mutter
and reluctance to love,
our clamor for approval
and silence at evil,
our seeking for glory
and forsaking the Kingdom.

Risen Savior, grant us Your peace.
Instill in us such fear of You
as will begin to make us wise.

Holy Spirit, lead us to our Heavenly Father,
bear witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
and fellow heirs with Christ.

We groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons,
the redemption of our bodies.
Bless Your Church with fruitful hope
as we wait with patience.

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

John 1:12-13

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.

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

PSALM 130

*"He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities."
Psalm 130:8*

Martin Luther (1523); Tune: ©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Used by permission



1. From the depths of woe I raise to Thee, the voice
2. To wash a way the crimson stain, grace, grace
3. There fore my trust is in the Lord, and not



of lam - en - ta - tion; Lord, turn a gra - cious ear
a - lone a - veil - leth; our works, a - las! Are all
in mine own mer - it; on Him my soul shall rest,



to me and hear my sup - pli - ca - tion; if Thou in - i - qui - ties
in vain; in much the best life fail - eth; no man can glo - ry in
His word up - holds my fain - ting spir - it; His prom - ised mer - cy is



dost mark, our se - cret sins and mis - deeds dark, O who shall
Thy sight, all must a - like con - fess Thy might, And live a -
my fort, my com - fort and my sweet sup - port; I wait for

ECHO



stand be - fore Thee? O who shall stand.
lone by mer - cy, And live a - lone.
it with pa - tience, I wait for it.

Who shall stand be - fore Thee?
Live a - lone by mer - cy,
Wait for it with pa - tience,



be - fore Thee?
by mer - cy,
with pa - tience.
Who shall stand be - fore Thee?
live a - lone by mer - cy,
wait for it with pa - tience.

4. What though I wait
the live-long night,
And till the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might;
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait till God appeareth. (echo)
And wait till God appeareth. (echo)

5. Though great our sins
and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow (echo)
From all their sin and sorrow (echo)

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

ALL THINGS NEW

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

ARISE MY SOUL, ARISE

VERSE



1. A - rise my soul, a - rise shake off your guil - ty fears; _____
 2. He e - ver lives a - bove for me to in - ter - cede, _____
 3. Five blee - ding wounds He bears, re - ceived on Cal - va - ry, _____
 4. My God is re - con - ciled, His pard - ning voice I hear, _____



the blee - ding sa - cri - fice on my be - half a - ppears. _____
 His all re - dee - ming love, His pre - cious blood to plead. _____
 they pour e - ffec - tual prayers, they strong - ly plead for me. _____
 He owns me for His child, I can no lon - ger fear. _____



Be - fore the throne my sure - ty stands, be - fore the throne _____
 His blood a - toned for e - very race, His blood a - toned _____
 For - give him, oh for - give, they cry, for - give him, oh _____
 With con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, with con - fi - dence _____



_____ my sure - ty stands, my name is wri - tten on His hands _____
 _____ for e - very race and sprin - kles now the throne of grace _____
 _____ for - give, they cry, don't let that ran - somed sin - ners die! _____
 _____ I now draw nigh, and "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther!" cry. _____

REFRAIN



_____ A-rise! _____ A-rise! _____ A-rise! _____ A-rise! _____



_____ my soul, a - rise! _____ A-rise! _____ A-rise! _____ A-rise! _____ A-rise! _____



_____ my soul a - rise! _____ Shake off your guil - ty fears and rise! _____

"Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."
 Hebrews 7:25

Charles Wesley, 1742. ©1996 Twit, Kevin. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

"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. Trey Wickham, Sarah Shrader, Doug Cherrington, Mya Wilcox, and Pastor Kevin Greene led this morning's congregational singing. Jay Smith and Deacon Sean Winterhalter managed today's audio and video live stream. AJ Anonick managed the in-house video system.

The tapestry at the front of the sanctuary is the traditional liturgical color of white for this 50-day season of Easter. The tapestry will return to its many colors during the season of Pentecost. The piece is entitled "Psalm 148," and was created by a team of WEPC artists.

SERMON NOTES

Announcements

ADULT MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/adults

Sunday Morning Discipleship: 9AM / Room 810 **Mark: Immediately**

The word "immediately" shows up 35x in Mark's 16 chapters. Mark is fast paced, filled with action, and centers on Jesus. This class will help us understand the significance of Jesus' identity as the Son of God AND the Suffering Servant.

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

- **Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies**
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)

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)

Young Adult Fellowship

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)

DivorceCare Spring 2026

Through May 5 / 6:30-8:30 PM / Room 810
DivorceCare is a 13-week Christ-centered program addressing the complexity of life when facing marital separation or divorce. Register [HERE](#). Contact: Gordon Collier (gcollier.pss@gmail.com)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Youth Group:** April 29
Middle School: 6-7:30 PM
High School: 7:30-9 PM

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 (6-7:30 PM)

Worship Lab

April 26 & May 3, 17 (in-service commissioning)
Chapel / 10:30 AM

Second Graders are invited to join us for a five week program where we will go through the various elements of the worship service, as well as hear from a few of the worship leaders. The purpose of this time is to give the children helpful tools to use as their hearts mature toward worship!

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study: The Parables of Jesus TONIGHT! / 5 PM / Room 810

Join us in the study of the parables of Jesus.
Contact: Changjwok Deng (changjwok@wepc.org)

2026 WEPC Track Camp: Save the Date!

June 1-5 / 5-8 PM

WEPC Track Camp is a family-friendly ministry for rising 1st through 12th grade students. Come have fun with relays, sprints, baton hand-offs, birthday push-ups, and more! This camp is FREE! Sign up to register [here](#) or to volunteer [here](#).
Contact: Talya Tacosa-O'Dea (talya@wepc.org)

MISSIONS

www.wepc.org/outreach/missions

STEP Richmond Summer Enrichment - Volunteers Needed

June 29-July 30 / 1-5 PM
New Life Baptist Church

Do you have a free afternoon this summer? Join STEP at Summer Enrichment to mentor children from Gilpin Court! Volunteers are needed to teach or help with skill-building activities and to chaperone field trips. Sign up to volunteer at steprichmond.org/summer.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deacons of the Week

Tim Andrews, Luke Shrader, Taylor Miller, & Stephen Hunn

WEPC Easter 2026 Playlist

Check out our [Easter 2026 Spotify Playlist](#) as we celebrate Christ's victory over death. You can find it by searching "WEPC Easter 2026" or "West End Presbyterian RVA + playlists."

Congregational Meeting: Election of Officers

May 17 / Following the 10:30 AM service
Please join us for a congregational meeting as we elect and re-elect church officers.

Everyone is welcome, members will vote.

Deacon Re-election: Rob Musser

Deacon Election: Peter Goodrich, Ryan Shallow, Brock Snyder, Kurt Zebley

Elder Re-election: Paul Howe

Inquirers' Weekend: FRI, May 1-SUN May 3

The pastors of WEPC extend a warm invitation to those interested in our church and the possibility of membership in the future (*membership does give an individual a vote in all congregational meetings*). Inquirers' Weekend is a wonderful time to meet our pastors in a group setting and learn some foundations of Christianity, foundations for our church's worship, and opportunities for connection and service with others. (Please note that the Friday and Saturday sessions serve as the first step towards membership.)

Friday: 6:30–9 PM (dinner included)

Saturday: 9 AM–12 PM (breakfast included)

No childcare provided for Friday & Saturday.

Sunday: 7 PM: Dessert at the Shelbys' home.

Children welcome.

RSVP by MON, April 27 to Karen Howe (karen@wepc.org) or mark your tear-off.

Video Tech Volunteer Needed

Would you be interested in serving the church by helping run worship slides on a Sunday morning? Minimal training is required. Contact: Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org)

WEPC Assessment and Care Team

As part of the work to find a new senior pastor, please see the weekly email on Wednesdays for updates from the WEPC Assessment and Care team. If you are not already receiving the Wednesday emails, please sign up [HERE](#).

WEPC CHRISTIAN Seasons Calendar

2026-2027 Calendar Submissions Now Open!

We are now accepting submissions for our 2nd edition of the WEPC Christian Seasons Calendar, which tells the story of Jesus and His Church through a calendar with Scripture, liturgical themes, and artwork from WEPC artists.

Whether you create through painting, drawing, baking, photography, woodworking, needlework, or more, we invite you to join us and submit your creation as we seek to reflect our Creator and worship Jesus as we remember His birth, death, resurrection, ascension, & His call to follow Him. Please visit our website to see the specific requirements for submissions, and contact Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org) with questions.

The deadline for submissions is August 30, 2026.

There is no age requirement; we encourage both children & adults to submit their art!

Each WEPC household will be gifted a calendar at the beginning of the Advent season. If you have not yet received your 2025-2026 calendar, or would like to purchase additional calendars, contact Becca (becca@wepc.org). To access the free devotional that accompanies the calendar, visit wepcchristianseasons.com.

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.

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.