



West End
presbyterian church

The Fifth 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

CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

"Grace is not a temporary assistance... but the beginning of an eternal, unbreakable fellowship with God."

--*Herman Bavinck*

"The promise is not that all things are good, but that God is at work in all things for our ultimate good—conforming us to Christ."

--*Nancy Guthrie*

"If God is working all things together for your good, then nothing that happens to you is meaningless."

--*Tim Keller*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Romans 14:8, Heidelberg
Catechism 1 (1563)*

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 we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Silence

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong--body and soul, in life and in death--to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Invocation
Asking God to be
with us.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN



1 And can it be that I should gain An in - t'rest in the
2 He left His Fa - ther's throne a - bove, So free, so in - fi -
3 Long my im - pri - soned spi - rit lay Fast bound in sin and
4 No con - de - mna - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and all in



Sa - vior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For
nite His grace; Emp - tied Him - self of all but love, And
na - ture's night; Thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning ray, I
Him is mine! A - live in Him, my li - ving Head, And



me who him to death pur - sued? A - ma - zing love! how
bled for A - dam's help - less race; 'Tis mer - cy all, im -
woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my
clothed in right - eous - ness di - vine, Bold I ap - proach th'e -



can it be, That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
mense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.
heart was free; I rose, went forth and fol - lowed Thee.
ter - nal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Refrain



A - ma - zing love! how can it be That



Thou, my God, should die for me!

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.

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8

Charles Wesley (1738); Tune: SAGINA, Thomas Campbell (1825). Public domain

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

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

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.



SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:26-30

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. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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

*I Timothy 3:9
I Corinthians 5:7-8,
10:16-17, 15:3-4
from the Book of
Common Prayer*

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord, we want to see You face to face, awed by Your majesty, greatness and glory, humbled and encouraged by Your great love. Yet there is a coldness in our hearts, a hardness toward You, an unwillingness to admit our sin and need for You. As soon as a good thing comes from Your hand we make an idol of it. As soon as we feel our lack, we craft the same. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within us, in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to You, and always clings to the Cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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.

Titus 3:3-7

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

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME



What gift of grace is Je - sus, my Re - deem - er. There is no
 The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en, for by my
 No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture
 With ev - ery breath I long to fol - low Je - sus, for He has

*"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
 Philippians 1:6*



more for heav - en now to give. He is my joy, my right - eous - ness and
 side the Sav - ior, He will stay. I lab - or on in weak - ness and re -
 sure, the price, it has been paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my
 said that He will bring me home. And day by day I know He will re -

Jonny Robinson
 Michael Farren
 Rich Thompson
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 Music. Used by
 permission.
 CCLI #708363



free - dom, my stead - fast love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I
 joi - cing, for in my need, His pow - er is dis - played. To this I
 par - don, and He was raised to ov - er - throw the grave. To this I
 new me un - til I stand with joy be - fore the throne. To this I



hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. For my life is whol - ly bound to
 hold: my Shep - herd will de - fend me. Through the deep - est val - ley He will
 hold: my sin has been de - feat - ed. Je - sus now, and ev - er, is my
 hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus. All the glo - ry ev - er - more to



His. Oh how strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
 lead. Oh the night has been won, and I shall ov - er - come! Yet not
 plea. Oh the chains are re - leased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not
 Him. When the race is com - plete, still my lips shall re - peat: Yet not



I, but through Christ in me.
 I, but through Christ in me.
 I, but through Christ in me.
 I, but through Christ in me.

"To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ." Jude 1:1

Taylor Leonhardt, Brent Milligan, Melanie Penn, Dwan Hill; ©2024 Integrity's Praise! Music. Used by permission. CCLI #708363

BELOVED



1. The mor - ning comes and I can see the light of dawn, the signs.
2. An in this age of deep di - stress. I need Your peace here I



of spring, a qui - et voice speaks to my heart and tells.
con - fess. The Spi - rit You so free - ly give, oh, let



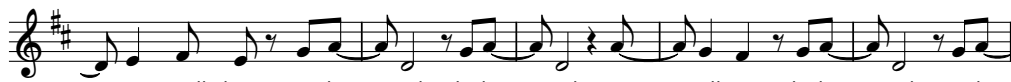
me of the love of God. How sweet the days when I
Your love be where I live. And find me in the waves.
3. To Je - sus I will e'er



am sure that good will con - quer, hope en - dure, and when
of doubt, come take my hand and pull me out, down all
be - long, my life the sea You walk u - pon, Your Word,



my faith seems far too small still I am Yours and
my an - xious thoughts and fears till all my trem - bling heart
a stea - dy place to stand, where I re - mem - ber who



am called: Be-lo - ved, be-lo - ved, You call me be-lo - ved. Be-lo -
can hear is: Be-lo - ved, be-lo - ved, You call us be-lo - ved. Be-lo -
I am: Be-lo - ved, be-lo - ved, we call You be-lo - ved. Be-lo -



- ved, be - lo - ved, to Je - sus I be - long.
- ved, be - lo - ved, to Je - sus we be - long.
- ved, be - lo - ved, to Je - sus we be - long.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

"The peace of God...will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"
Philippians 4:7

Horatio G. Spafford (1873); Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip Bliss (1876). Public Domain

1. When peace, like a ri - ver, a - tten - deth my way, when
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come. Let
 3. My sin, O the joy of this glo - ri - ous thought! My
 4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the

6
 sor - rows like sea bil-lows roll; what - e - ver my lot, Thou hast
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gar - ded my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the Cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the

11
 taught me to say, "it is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate and has shed His own blood for my soul. It is
 bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is well with my soul!

17
 well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul). It is well, it is well with my soul.

"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 blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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 Changiwok Deng led worship. Pastor Kevin Greene, Sarah Jurewicz, Deacon Rick McMahon, Kim Forquer, Suzie Bird, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Tim Drummond, and David Jackson led this morning's congregational singing. Ross Bruning, and Chris Malak managed today's audio and video live stream. Michael Whitman and Cora Snyder managed the in-house video system. Children's Ministry Director Audrey Snyder and Adult Discipleship Director Matt Bouknight gave the Children's Message at the 10:30AM service.

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.

Men's Ministry - Second Monday

www.wepc.org/grow/men

May 11 / 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)

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)

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.

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)

Vacation Bible School: Save the Date!

June 22-25 / 5:30-8 PM

Join us for a fun-filled week of Bible teaching, games, crafts, and fellowship! **Registration opens on May 4th.** Visit our table in the gallery to learn more about registering and signing up adults to volunteer.

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **First Sunday Breakfast:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Youth Group:** May 6
Middle School: 6-7:30 PM
High School: 7:30-9 PM
- **High School Movie Night:** May 23 / 6:30 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

Simple English Bible Study: The Parables of Jesus

May 10 / 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)

2026 West End Community Cup: Volunteers Needed

Join us as the WEPC Neighborhood Outreach plans to host four family-oriented FIFA World Cup watch parties this summer. This is an opportunity to share the gospel, fellowship, and strengthen our relationships with our ESL students and their families. We are looking for volunteers who can help us show hospitality and welcome our neighborhood families. There will be fun games, activities for kids, food, and prizes at half time. For more information, please stop by the table in the gallery or contact Ligdabeth Shea (7dbethz@gmail.com).

WrapAround Ministry

www.wepc.org/outreach/wrap-around-ministry/

WrapAround Luncheon

May 17 / Following the 2nd service / FH
Join us as we hear from guest speaker, Rebekah Brown, from Fostering Acadia who will share about opportunities to serve youth ages 17–21 navigating life after foster care. RSVP by May 13th to Ali Fogarty (alifogarty@gmail.com)

General Information

Deacons of the Week

Mike Glasgow, Bryan Meeks, David Creasy, & Chris May

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

WEPC Testimony Workshop

May 24 / 12:15-2 PM / Room 810

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15

Knowing the story of how Jesus has given you hope and new life is a powerful way to tell others the Gospel. This testimony workshop will help you reflect on God's faithfulness and be prepared to share that Good News. RSVP contact: Kevin Greene (kevin@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.