



West End
presbyterian church

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time." Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in His glory as King of all.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

LIGHT HAS COME

"No half-heartedness and no worldly fear must turn us aside from following the Light unflinchingly."

--*J.R. Tolkien*

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

--*1 John 1:5-7*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 18:1-3, 28-30; To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

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.

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

**For it is you who light my lamp;
the LORD my God lightens my darkness.**

For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

**This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.**

Invocation

Asking God to be with us.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

VERSE



1. The splen - dor of the King, clothed in maj - es - ty;
2. Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;



let all the earth re-joyce, all the earth re-joyce.
be - gin - ning and the end, be-gin-ning and the end.



He wraps Him - self in light, and dark - ness tries to hide,
The God - head, three in one, Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son,



and trem - bles at His voice, and trem - bles at His voice.
the Li - on and the Lamb, the Li - on and the Lamb.

REFRAIN




How great _____ is our God! Sing with me: how great is our



God! And all will see how great, how great _____ is our God! _____

BRIDGE



Name a - bove all _____ names, wor - thy of all praise. _____ My



heart will sing: how great _____ is our God! _____

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.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty."
Psalm 104:1

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves
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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.

CARE & ASSESSMENT TEAM UPDATE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the words of Christ, our Sa - vior: "Come to me." "Come to me."_

All you wear - y and hea - vy la - den: "I will give you rest." God so loved the

world He gave His on - ly be - go - tten Son. That who - ev - er be - lieves in Him shall

have e - ver - las - ting life._ Hear the words of Christ, our Sa - vior: "Come to me."

"Come to me."_ All you wear - y and hea - vy lad - en: "I will give you rest."

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." I Timothy 1:15

During our current sermon series from John 3, we will sing "The Comfortable Words" to open the Ministry of Prayer each Sunday. The Comfortable Words are drawn from the Book of Common Prayer to remind us of Jesus' encouragement in Matthew 11:28 and John 3:16. He provides rest for the weary, and in Him we have eternal life.

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MINISTRY OF PRAYER

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.



"You, Lord, are forgiving
and good, abounding
in love to all who call to
you." Psalm 86:5

Words:

attr. John Stocker

(1776). Music: Sandra

McCracken. ©2001

Same Old Dress Music

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THY MERCY, MY GOD



1. Thy mer - cy, my God, is the theme
2. With - out Thy sweet mer - cy I could
3. Thy mer - cy is more than a match
4. Great Fath - er of mer - cies Thy good -



of my song, the joy of my heart and the boast
not live here; sin would re - duce me to ut -
for my heart which won - ders to feel its own hard -
- ness I own and the cov - e - nant love of Thy cru -



of my tongue. Thy free grace a - lone from the first
- ter des - pair; but through Thy free good - ness my spir -
- ness de - part; dis - solved by Thy good - ness I fall
- ci - fied Son; all praise to the Spi - rit whose whisp -



to the last hath won my af - fec - tions and bound
- its re - vive and He that first made me still keeps
to the ground and weep for the praise of the mer -
- per di - vine seals mer - cy and par - don and right -



my soul - fast.
me a - live.
- cy I've found.
- eous - ness mine.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

**Children's Worship will take a break for some summer weeks and resume with the beginning of Sunday School classes on Sunday, August 23. www.wepc.org/grow/children*

SCRIPTURE Reading

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

John 3:16-21

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

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

from Matthew 26:17-29

CONFESSION OF SIN

Adapted from The Valley of Vision, "God and Myself"

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.

Lord God Almighty, Your understanding is unsearchable and infinite, Your arm cannot be stayed. Holy is your wisdom, power, mercy, ways, works. How can I stand before You with my numberless offenses? I have often loved darkness, observed lying vanities, forsaken Your given mercies, trampled underfoot Your beloved Son, mocked Your providences, flattered You with my lips, broken Your covenant. It is only in light of Your compassion that I am not consumed. At the Cross may I contemplate the evil of sin, and abhor it. May I look on Him whom I pierced, as One slain for me, and by me. May I never despise His death by fearing its efficacy for my salvation. And whatever cross I am required to bear, let me see Jesus suffering mine.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Colossians 1:12-14

Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us. The Elders presiding over the Supper are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

At each communion station, grape juice is served in purple cups, wine is served in clear cups, and gluten-free bread is served in a separate tray. For a list of ingredients in the wafers, see www.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

AMAZING LOVE

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

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VERSE

1. My Lord, what love is this that pays so
2. And so, they watched Him die, des - pised, re -
3. And now, this love of Christ, shall flow like

REFRAIN

dear - ly; that I, the guil - ty one, may go ___ free. A -
jec - ted; but, O, the blood He shed flowed for ___ me.
ri - vers; "come wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain!"

ma-zing love! O what sa-cri-fice! The Son of God giv'n for ___ me; my

debt He pays and my death He dies, that I ___ might ___ live, that

I ___ might ___ live.

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

Sandra McCracken
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COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

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, come light our hearts. For
are, O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.

BELOVED

"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
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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



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



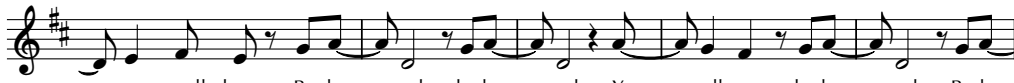
me of the love of God. How sweet the days when
Your love be where I live. And find me in the waves.
3. To Je - sus I will e'er



am sure that good will con - quer, hope en - dure, and when
of doubt, come take my hand and pull me out, drown 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.

"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. Elder Mark Crutcher led worship. Trey Wickham, Sarah Shrader, Doug Cherrington, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, Donald Smith, and Troy Arnold led this morning's congregational singing. Tim Drummond, Ligdabeth Shea, and Deacon Sean Winterhalter managed today's audio and video live stream. Cora Snyder managed the in-house video system.

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.

Wednesday Night Summer Fellowship: LOVE

www.wepc.org/WNF

Wednesdays through August 26 / 6:30-8 PM
WEPC Chapel

Join us this summer for a look at the theme of LOVE in the Bible. What does God say about love and being loved? Let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Outspoken skeptics, new Christians and long-time believers are encouraged to attend. Feel free to bring others, and drop in whenever you are in town! Led by Kevin & Kim Greene and Becca Wethered. Contact: Kevin (kevin@wepc.org)

Summer Women's Book Study:

Even Better Than Eden

Wednesdays through August 19 / 6:30 PM
Room 810

All women are invited to a book study this summer! Join us as we consider how each of our stories is shaped by the gospel story. Contact: Sarah Shrader (library@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)

1823 COLLEGE-AGED MINISTRY

Sundays / TODAY!, July 26, Aug 2
12-2 PM / (visit [1823 GroupMe](#) for location)

ALL younger adults (post high school, approx. ages 18-23, in college, working, taking a gap year) are invited to join us for some summer gatherings! Our time together will include fellowship, a devotional time, and prayer.

Contact: Kristin Tetterton (kristin@wepc.org or 804-350-6153).

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Youth Sunday School:** 9 AM / Youth Lounge
- **Game Night:** July 13 / 6:30-8 PM
- **Summer Youth Group:** July 15 / 6:30-8 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 (4 years-2nd grade on 1st Sunday)
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (service audio available during both services)

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/neighborhood

2026 West End Community Cup: Volunteers Needed July 19 / 3 PM / Fellowship Hall

Join us for our final FIFA World Cup watch party this summer! This is an opportunity to share the gospel, fellowship, and strengthen our relationships with our ESL students and their families. To volunteer, please [CLICK HERE](#). Also, we invite all families to participate in the [World Cup Trivia Challenge!](#) Contact: Ligdabeth (wepccommunitycup@wepc.org)

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY

Lectio Visio: The Life of Christ

TODAY!-August 16 / 12-1:30 PM / Room 810

Join us as we seek to grow in our love for our Savior as we journey through key events in Christ's life by meditating on passages from God's Word and reflecting on selected works of art. From Christ's incarnation and earthly ministry to His death and resurrection—participants will have the opportunity to see familiar Gospel accounts from fresh perspectives and behold Christ through His Word. We'll eat together at 12 PM (lunch provided) and begin our time of reflection at 12:30 PM. Contact: Becca Wethered (becca@wepc.org)

MISSIONS

STEP Richmond Ministry School Supply Drive

Help us collect school supplies for children in Gilpin Court. A collection bin can be found just outside the WEPC church office through

August 5. Visit steprichmond.org/back2school for a list of needed supplies.

General Information

Deacons of the Week: Jon Greenhill, Rob Musser, Stan Cover, & Tim Andrews

WEPC Family Day

July 19 / 4-6 PM / Deep Run Park (Shelter #3)
Everyone is welcome to join us as we gather for our first ever WEPC family day! This is an opportunity to be together as a church family and for us to invite our friends to be introduced to the church outside of the church walls. Bring your own snacks and any lawn games that you would want to have!

WEPC Employment Opportunity:

ESL Assistant Director

WEPC is currently seeking those who desire to build relationships with our neighbors and love to work on a team that supports church ministry. This position is part of the Neighborhood Outreach Ministry and is essential to the administration and function of the ESL Ministry - read the job description [HERE](#). Contact: Heather Glissman (heatheresl@wepc.org)

John 3 Sermon Series Playlist

Check out our [John 3 Spotify Playlist](#) as we give thanks for God's love for us in sending His Son that we might live. You can find it by searching "WEPC John 3" or "West End Presbyterian RVA + playlists."

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](#).

We highly encourage all members and regular attenders to take the congregational survey (use QR code to the right) to help inform us as we create a church profile.



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.

Inquirers' Weekend: FRI, Sept 18-SUN Sept 20

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, September 14 to Karen Howe (karen@wepc.org) or mark your tear-off.

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.

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.