



West End
presbyterian church

**The Thirteenth 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.

Hebrews 4:14-16

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.

Invocation

Asking God to be with us.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

OUR EYES LOOKED TO THE LORD OUR GOD

"The upward look is the only look which will never be disappointed."
--*Alexander McLaren*

"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.'"
--*Matthew 6:7-9*

"The mercy of God is our only refuge and consolation."
--*Martin Luther*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,

Let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!

Ear - ly in the mor - ning our song shall rise to Thee.
cas - ting down their gol - den crowns a - round the glas - sy sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!
che - ru - bim and se - ra - phim fal - ling down be - fore Thee,
on - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!

God in three Per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!
Who wert and art, and e - ver - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!

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.

"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!'"
Revelation 4:8

John Bacchus
Dykes | Reginald
Heber. TUNE:
NICAEA.
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.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism
Q&A 12 & 18 (1563)

According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both now and in eternity: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

God requires that his justice be satisfied. Therefore the claims of this justice must be paid in full, either by ourselves or by another.

Then who is this mediator— true God and at the same time a true and righteous human?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was given to us to completely deliver us and make us right with God.

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.



“Behold, I am coming
soon” Revelation 22:12

Horatius Bonar (1849),
alt. Michelle Raybourn;
Music: ©2022 Michelle
Raybourn Music
(ASCAP), Mikey Rogers
Music (BMI), Kevin Twit
Music (ASCAP) and
Sammi Accola Music
(BMI).
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WE SHALL BE SOON

VERSE



1.Be-yond the smi - ling, and the weep - ing, we shall be soon...
2.Be-yond the bloom - ing, and the fa - ding, we shall be soon...
3.Be-yond the ri - sing, and the set - ting, we shall be soon...
4.Be-yond the com - ing, and the go - ing, we shall be soon...



Be-yond the wa - king and the sleep - ing, be-yond the sow -
Be-yond the shi - ning and the sha - ding, be-yond the hop -
Be-yond the calm - ing and the fret - ting, be-yond re - mem -
Be-yond the eb - bing and the flo - wing, be-yond the wi -

REFRAIN



- ing and the reap - ing, we shall be soon...
- ing and the dread-ing, we shall be soon... And all our
- b'ring and for-get - ting, we shall be soon...
ther - ing and the grow-ing, we shall be soon...



good things turn to dust. Death, de-cay, and dark - ness, all



take from us, but there will come an end to all our end - ings. We are wait -



- ing, for the king - dom You are bring-ing. Be-yond the ev -



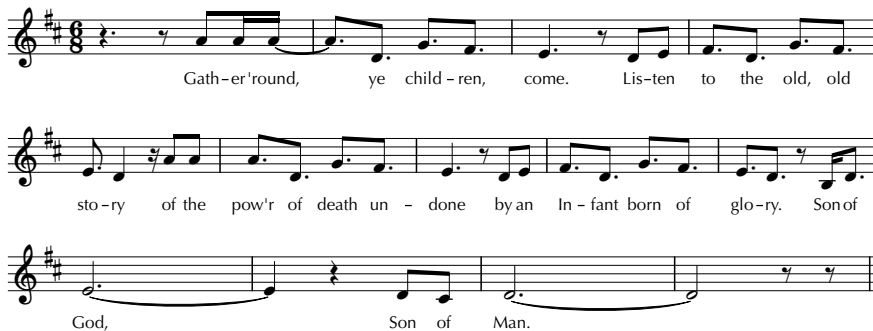
- er, and the ne - ver, we shall be soon...

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30am)

Children, age 4 through 2nd grade, will be dismissed prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson, activity, and fellowship. Pick up from Room 121. www.wepc.org/grow/children

CHILDREN'S BLESSING (10:30am)

GATHER ROUND YE CHILDREN, COME



"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"
Matthew 19:14

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GOD THE SON RENEWS US THROUGH HIS WORD & SACRAMENT

SCRIPTURE Reading

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
²Behold, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he has mercy upon us.
³Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
⁴Our soul has had more than enough
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

*Psalms 123. A Song of
Ascents.*

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

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

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.

Almighty God, we strive for joy, meaning, and security. We look for it in our work, our relationships, and along every path of life. We despair that our lives are fleeting, we give way to fear, and we make idols of Your good gifts. Father, forgive us. We have not sought first Your Kingdom. We have been blind to Your faithful hand in our world and lives. Lift our eyes to see Jesus, and lead us to glory in His salvation alone. By Your Spirit, grant us faith to trust Your providence, Your provision, Your rule, Your love, and Your redemption. Merciful God, give us joy in the assurance that You are God, and that we are Yours through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Romans 10:9,13

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved... For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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

HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

VERSE



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those He saves are His de-light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



when the temp-ter would pre-vail, He will hold me fast.
pre-cious in His ho-ly sight, He will hold me fast.
jus-tice has been sa-tis-fied; He will hold me fast.



I could ne-ver keep my hold through life's fear-ful
He'll not let my soul be lost, His prom-is-es shall
Raised with Him to end-less life, He will hold me



path; for my love is of-ten cold, He must hold me
last; bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me
fast till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at

REFRAIN



fast.
fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast,
last.



for my Sav-ior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

*"Now to Him
who is able to
keep you from
stumbling and
to present you
blameless before
the presence of
His glory with
great joy."
Jude 24*

Ada R.
Habershon
(1906); Tune:
©2013
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Matthew Merker
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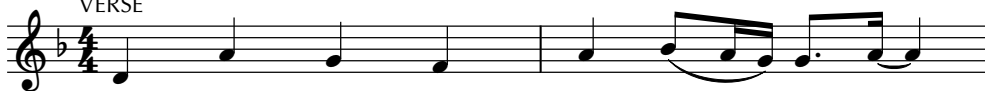
*"Let us then approach
God's throne of grace
with confidence, so
that we may receive
mercy and find grace
to help us in our time
of need."*

Hebrews 4:16

James Cummins
(1839); Music by Greg
Thompson; ©2004
Greg Thompson
Music.
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BY THY MERCY

VERSE



1. Je - sus, Lord of life and glo - ry,
2. From the depth of nat - ure's blind - ness,
3. When the world a - round is smi - ling,
4. In the sol - emn hour of dy - ing,



bend from Heav'n Thy gra - cious ear; while our wait - ing
from the hard - ening power of sin, from all mal - ice
in the time of wealth and ease, earth - ly joys our
in the awe - ful judg - ment day, may our souls on



souls a - dore Thee, Friend of help - less sin - ners, hear:
and un - kind-ness, from the pride that lurks with - in.
hearts be - guil - ing, in the day of health and peace.
Thee re - ly - ing, find Thee still our Rock and Stay.

REFRAIN



By Thy mer-cy, O de - liv-er us, good Lord, — good



Lord, by Thy mer-cy, O de - liv-er us, good Lord, — good Lord.

STEADFAST

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever"
Psalm 136:1

Sandra McCracken
Leslie Jordan
Josh Silverberg
(adaptations from
Henri Nouwen),
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VERSE



1. I will build my house, wheth-er storm or drought, on the
2. By the word You spoke all the star-ry host are called
3. I will not trust in the strength of kings, on Your



Rock that does not move. I will set my hope in Your
out by name each night. In Your watch-ful care, I will
pro-mise I will stand. I will shout for joy, I will

REFRAIN



love, O Lord, and Your faith-ful-ness will prove: You are
rest se-cure as You lead us with Your light.
raise my voice, "Hal-le-lu-jah to the Lamb!"



stead-fast, _____ stead-fast. _____ You are stead-fast, _____



stead - fast. _____

*"Let everything that
has breath praise the
LORD." Psalm 150:6*

Text: Thomas Ken
(1709) Tune: OLD
HUNDREDTH
(Bourgeois, 1551)

What does "doxology" mean?

It's derived from
two Greek words
meaning "glory"
and "word." A
doxology, then, is
a spoken word or
song that ascribes
glory to God.
Today's doxology
calls all of creation
to praise God
as the source of
all blessing and
acknowledges His
Trinitarian (three-in-
one) nature.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low Praise Him a - bove ye heavn - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The Last Word

God always has
the last word in
our worship. For
those who are in
Christ Jesus, these
are always words of
blessing.

Benediction

*A team is available for prayer at the front of the Sanctuary following the
9 AM & 10:30 AM services.*

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon and administered the Lord's Supper. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Elder Chris Newlin, Erin Bouknight, Andi Alberts, Doug Cherrington, Buddy Miner, Donald Smith, Worship Arts Director Becca Wethered, and Troy Arnold led this morning's congregational singing. Greg Stiles, Ethan Molique, Riley Molique, and Scott Hoyer 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 / FH

- **TODAY!:** Join us as hear an update and give thanks for God's work on our two youth service trips.
- **Growing Together / Aug 30 - Sept 27:** Join us for this class designed to anchor our church as we prepare for this season of transition. Through deep reflection on the sovereignty of God, we will find out how to walk in unity and with hope.
- **Sonship / Beginning October 11:** Join us as we learn more about how we experience God's delight over us as His beloved children and learn what it means to practically live by faith. *Sonship*, developed by Serge, aims to increase our love for God and others. Contact: Sandy or Meredith Elder (santeecoop@gmail.com; elderelder1204@gmail.com)

Sojourners Information Meeting

TODAY! / After the 10:30 AM Service / Rm 810 Sojourners is a nine-month pilot beginning this fall at WEPC. This cross-generational program combines training in biblical worldview, practical theology, and cultural reflection. It will meet twice a month throughout the duration. Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

Wednesday Night Summer Fellowship: LOVE

www.wepc.org/WNF

Last class on August 26 / 6:30-8 PM / Chapel Join us for a look what God says about love and being loved. Outspoken skeptics, new Christians and long-time believers are encouraged to attend. Contact: Kevin (kevin@wepc.org)

Summer Women's Book Study: Even Better Than Eden

Last meeting on August 26 / 6:30 PM / Rm 810 All women are invited! 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 through small groups and events. Contact: Matt Bouknight (matt@wepc.org)

Women's Ministry

www.wepc.org/grow/women

Fall Wellspring & Restore Bible Studies:

Wellspring: Tuesdays AM - *begins Sep 15*

Restore: Wednesdays PM - *begins Sep 16*

Join us as we consider Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. As a letter of great joy and encouragement in the face of difficult challenges, we hope this study of Philippians will enable us to encounter Christ Jesus in the midst of our own circumstances. All women are welcome. Register now! Contact: Brice Bowman (brice@wepc.org)

Small Groups

Want to connect with others and deepen your faith this fall? Consider joining a Small Group, helping start a new one, or stepping into one of our newly forming discipleship groups. Contact Matt (matt@wepc.org) or Joy (joy@wepc.org) for more info.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/children

Sundays:

- **9 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Sunday School
- **10:30 AM:** Nursery (infant-3 years old) & Children's Worship (4 years-2nd grade)
- **Nursing Mom's Room** (service audio available during both services)

Volunteers Needed!!

- **4 Sunday School Assistants (PreK-5th)** (Rotating every other week)
- **Nursery** - adults needed during both services
- **Wednesday Nights:** Volunteers needed to lead games, crafts, and Bible teaching.

Contact: Audrey (audrey@wepc.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY

www.wepc.org/grow/youth

- **Service Trip Update:** TODAY! / 9 AM / FH
- **Senior Cookout:** August 30 / 12 PM / Thomas' home
- **Parents vs Students:** September 9 / 6-7:30 PM
- **Fall Middle & High School Youth Group:** Beginning September 16 / 6-7:30 PM

MISSIONS

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Virginia Dinner

November 5 / 6 PM / Jefferson Hotel

Join WEPC Missions Partner CEFV for a night of music, testimony, and a vision for what God has for the future. Contact: Cheryle (cheryl.simmons@cevfa.com)

FOOD PANTRY

www.wepc.org/mercyministry

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

General Information

Deacons of the Week: Peter Goodrich, David Creasy, Davison Long, & Sean Winterhalter

WEPC Pastoral Transition Updates

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](#).

Visit the [Assessment & Care Team Updates page](#) for information regarding the following dates:

- **TODAY! (LAST DAY to recommend):** The WEPC Session will receive Pastor Search Committee (PSC) recommendations for members of the congregation from other members of the congregation.
- **Aug 27 / 7 PM / Chapel:** Prayer Meeting

Inquirer's 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 Shellys' home.

Children welcome.

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

WEPC Camping Trip

September 18-20 / \$55 per family

Join us for a weekend of faith, fun, and adventure as we camp in the great outdoors and fellowship together at Sherando Lake! Contact: Andi Alberts (alberts.andrea@gmail.com)

Psalms for Pilgrims Sermon Series Playlist

Check out our [Psalms for Pilgrims Playlist](#) as we turn our eyes to our Father for Refuge, Helper, Keeper, and Merciful Deliverer. You can find it by searching "WEPC Psalms for Pilgrims" or "West End Presbyterian RVA + playlists."

WEPC Employment Opportunity:

Neighborhood Outreach 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. Read the job description [HERE](#). Contact: Heather Glissman (heatheresl@wepc.org)

ESL Nursery Workers Needed During ESL

Tuesday Evening Classes: Paid Position

If you love working with children and want to support our community, we would love to hear from you! Contact Ligdabeth Shea (eslnursery@wepc.org) with interest or questions, and visit our website to apply [here](#).

WEPC Christian Seasons Calendar

2026-2027 Calendar Submissions LAST CALL!

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!

WEPC Community PRESCHOOL

www.wepc.org/preschool

WEPC Community Preschool is hiring!

We have an assistant position open for the 2026-2027 school year. If interested, please visit our website at wepc.org/preschool/about/employment or reach out to the preschool director, Casey Zollinhofer (casey@wepc.org), for more information.

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.