

WEPC LECTIONARY PROJECT

Thank you for joining us this past year for the Lectionary Project to mark 25 years of Christ's faithfulness at West End Presbyterian Church. We used the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship, and our personal and family devotion. We are grateful for the many ways the Lord used the Scripture we shared together this past year. God is good.

Looking for a new daily reading plan? Consider...

A variety of daily readings from the English Standard Version:
www.esv.org/resources/mobile-apps

Read the Westminster Standards with Scripture proofs in a year:
reformedconfessions.com/about

Work your way through Matthew Henry's classic Method For Prayer:
matthewhenry.org/daily-devotional-emails

December 22, 2019 | The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Immanuel

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Restore Us

Romans 1:1-7
He Promised

Matthew 1:18-25
God With Us

Reflection on Sunday, December 22

Monday

Luke 1:46b-55
Great Things for Me

II Samuel 7:18, 23-29
This Good Thing

Galatians 3:6-14
Faith

Tuesday (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 52:7-10
The Return of the LORD

Psalm 98
Made Known

Hebrews 1:1-4
He Has Spoken

John 1:1-14
The Word Became Flesh

Wednesday (Christmas Day)

Isaiah 62:6-12
Behold

Psalm 97
The LORD Reigns

Titus 3:4-7
Appeared

Luke 2:1-20
Glory

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

There are not many humans in the Bible that I think of as heroes. However, as I have thought and prayed about my sermon this week, Joseph, the husband of Mary, has increased in my estimation.

He is called just and faithful to the law of God. Honestly, there are not many folks in the Bible who are so highly commended.

He accepts what God has for him and he accepts a child who is not his own biological son. Quite an example of grace and strength.

Merry Christmas!

Warmly,

Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 9 AM

9008 Quioccasin Road, Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 741.6562 | mail@wepc.org
website: wepc.org

PCA | pcanet.org

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNION

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are now in the season of Advent, a time that helps us to remember Christ's first coming and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His second coming when He will come to redeem His creation and exercise His rule with all power and authority.

Haggai 2:7-8

The First Word

Because we believe God initiates with sinners, we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

GOD WITH US

"My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. He shatters it Himself. He is the great iconoclast. Could we not almost say that this shattering is one of the marks of His presence? The Incarnation is the supreme example; it leaves all previous ideas of the Messiah in ruins."

C.S. Lewis

CALL TO WORSHIP

"In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory," says the LORD Almighty.

INVOCATION

DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Belgic Confession,
Article 15 (1561)

We believe that by the disobedience of Adam original sin has been spread through the whole human race. It is a corruption of all nature—an inherited depravity which even infects small infants in their mother's womb, and the root which produces in man every sort of sin. It is therefore so vile and enormous in God's sight that it is enough to condemn the human race, and it is not abolished or wholly uprooted even by baptism, seeing that sin constantly boils forth as though from a contaminated spring.

Nevertheless, it is not imputed to God's children for their condemnation but is forgiven by His grace and mercy—not to put them to sleep but so that the awareness of this corruption might often make believers groan as they long to be set free from the "body of this death."

SONG OF ADORATION

GLORIA

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, Gloria,
In excelsis Deo,
Glory to God on high!
In excelsis Deo,
We bless Your name, O Lord.
Alleluia!

*“Glory to God in the highest”
-Luke 2:14*

Alex Mejias & Ross Byrd
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Welcome

Visitors, we are glad you are here. Following the service, please join Pastor Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

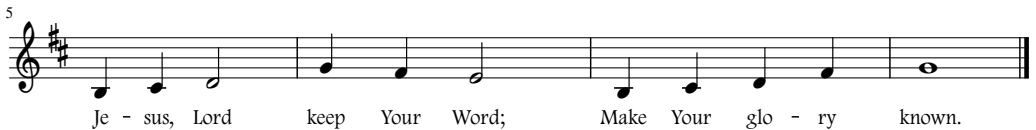
Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

Isaiah 7:10-16

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

SAVIOR, COME

Kevin W. Greene, Advent 2019; "Our Lord, come" (1 Corinthians 16:22) and "Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20) were early Christian cries for the personal return of Jesus Christ. The Church has long understood these exclamations to be the fundamental Advent prayer of longing for His appearing.



PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up Your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will You be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for Yourself!
Then we shall not turn back from You;
give us life, and we will call upon Your name!

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

OFFERING

If you miss today's offering and wish to give, or if you would like to submit your tear-off, the elders at the front of the sanctuary who are available for prayer following the service will be glad to receive them.

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God (Rom. 12:1).

SONG OF PRAISE

HE WHO IS MIGHTY

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death's shadow,
The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the Cornerstone.

*Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.
He Who is mighty has done a great thing;
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting;
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame,
Holy is His name.*

Oh, the freedom our Savior won,
The yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace,
No more condemnation;
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

*Now my soul magnifies the Lord.
I rejoice in the God Who saves.
I will trust His unfailing love,
I will sing His praises all my days.*

“For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.” -Luke 1:49

Rebecca Elliott & Kate DeGraide
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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30 am)

During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed for Children's Worship.

SCRIPTURE Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/sermons.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, You created man from the dust of the earth and made and formed him in Your image and likeness—good, just, and holy; we were able by our own will to conform in all things to Your perfect will.

adapted from Protestant Reformation confessions by Guy de Brès and John Calvin

But when we were in honor we did not understand it, and we did not recognize our excellence. We subjected ourselves willingly to sin and consequently to death and the curse, listening to the word of the devil. For we transgressed the commandment of life, which we had received, and by our sin we separated ourselves from You, our true Life, and we corrupted our entire nature.

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.

So we made ourselves guilty and subject to physical and spiritual death, we became wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all our ways. We forfeited all the excellent gifts which we had received from Your hand, and we retained none of them except for small traces which are enough to make us inexcusable.

Moreover, all the light in us is turned to darkness, as the Scripture teaches us: "The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not receive it." Here John calls all of us "darkness."

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Silent Confession of Sin

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

Hebrews 9:28

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.

Wine is in the outer ring of the communion tray, grape juice is in the inner rings. All bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, raise your hand and we will come to you at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper.

Elders & Deacons are glad to pray for your children who have not yet become communing members. If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please mark today's tear-off or contact the WEPC office.

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high,
And cause Thy light on us to rise.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord,
And turn the key to heaven's door.
Be Thou our comforter and guide,
and lead us to the Father's side.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall by His Word our darkness dispel.

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede,
Thy sacrifice, our only plea.
The judgment we no longer fear,
Thy precious blood has brought us near.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell.

O Come, Thou King of nations,
bring an end to all our suffering.
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
and reign now as our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come again with us to dwell.

*"They will call Him Emmanuel,
which means, 'God with us:'"
-Matthew 1:23*

Latin Hymn (12th century)
trans. John Mason Neale (1851)
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (13th
century)
Additional lyrics by Steve Cook
& Bob Kauflin, ©2014 Sovereign
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COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

*"He was manifested in the flesh."
-1 Timothy 3:16*

Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and
Michael Bleecker

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1. Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry:
In the dawning of the King,
He, the theme of heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come;
Look to Christ, Who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

2. Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry:
He the perfect Son of Man,
In His living, in His suff'ring,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hellbound man,
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law, in Him we stand.

3. Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry:
Christ, the Lord, upon the tree;
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption;
See the Father's plan unfold,
Bringing many sons to glory,
Grace unmeasured, love untold!

4. Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry:
Slain by death, the God of life;
But no grave could e'er restrain him,
Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance;
How unwavering our hope:
Christ in power resurrected;
As we will be when He comes.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

*"Let's go to Bethlehem and see
this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has told us about."
-Luke 2:15*

Attr. to Francis Wade (1743)
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlhem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels...

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest...

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing...

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.

*"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.

BENEDICTION

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.

After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you or for you, and to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Music was led by Trey Wickham, along with Jen Wickham, Jill Wiebe-King, Tammy Ingram, Pat Reynolds, Jamison Taggart, Jason Weippert, and Mollie Bowman.