



West End
presbyterian church

WEPC Lectionary Project: Union with Christ

In this 25th Anniversary year of West End Presbyterian Church, we are using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship, and our personal and family devotion. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

WEPC Weekly Readings

To subscribe to a daily email of these readings, register online at wepc.org/lectionary.

First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Righteous Branch Springs from David

Psalms 25:1-10

To You I Lift Up My Soul

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

Strengthen Hearts of Holiness

Luke 21:25-36

Watch for the Coming of the Son of Man

Reflection on Sunday, December 2

Monday

Numbers 17:1-11

The Budding of Aaron's Rod

II Peter 3:1-18

Growing in Grace

Tuesday

II Samuel 7:18-29

The Flowering of David's Line

Revelation 22:12-16

Jesus as the Fulfillment of David's Line

Wednesday

Isaiah 1:24-31

Warning not to Wither

Luke 11:29-32

The Coming of the Son of Man

Daily

Psalms 90

A Prayer for Life from God

Preparation for Sunday, December 9

Thursday

Malachi 3:5-12

Return to Me

Philippians 1:12-18a

Proclaiming Christ

Friday

Malachi 3:13-18

Those Who Serve God

Philippians 1:18b-26

Paul Rejoices Though Imprisoned

Saturday

Malachi 4:1-6

The Sun of Righteousness Shall Rise

Luke 9:1-6

The Mission of the Twelve

Daily

Luke 1:68-79

God's Tender Compassion

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

If we took a poll of our congregation with these questions, I wonder what the results would be:

- What are you looking forward to? (excuse the dangling preposition)
- What are you longing for? (again excuse the dangling preposition)
- What is your primary desire in life?

Advent has an answer as we live in the time between the times.

Warmly,
Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM
Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

First Sunday of Advent

The Christian year, anchored in the main events of the New Testament, provides a pattern for understanding the Christian life. 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.

REDEMPTION IS DRAWING NEAR

"Advent creates people, new people... Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come."

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

GATHERING SONG

MAGNIFICAT

My soul magnifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God.
My soul magnifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God.

*For He who is mighty
Has done great things for me.
Holy, holy, holy!
Holy, holy, holy is His name.*

My soul magnifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God.
My soul magnifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God.

For He who is mighty
Has done great things for me.
Holy, holy, holy!
Holy, holy, holy is His name.

Text: Luke 1:46-47,49
Tune: Flo Paris Oakes
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*"The virgin will... give birth
to a Son, and will call Him
Immanuel." – Isaiah 7:14*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Que el Señor los haga crecer para que se amen más y más unos a otros, y a todos... Que los fortalezca interiormente para que, cuando nuestro Señor Jesús venga con todos sus santos, la santidad de ustedes sea intachable delante de nuestro Dios y Padre.

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

from 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Today's call to worship was read in Spanish by Maria Dominguez.

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.

INVOCATION

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*from the
Book of Common Prayer*

SONG OF ADORATION

Text: from *Conditor alme siderum* (circa 6th c.),
translated by John M. Neale,
additional text by Alex Mejias
Music: Alex Mejias
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*“Salvation is nearer to us now
than when we first believed.”
– Romans 13:11*

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people’s everlasting Light;
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.

*Come, O come
Come, O come
Come, O come to us.*

When this old world drew on toward night
You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the Child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

Welcome

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

*Psalm 25:1-10.
Of David.*

**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.**

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

**He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.**

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Pray for Our Church, Our City, and the World.

This week:

- That our congregation would grow in eager anticipation of Christ's return.
- For the households and families of Metropolitan Richmond: For single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, friends living in community, elderly persons living in their own home, in retirement communities & nursing institutions, families going through estrangement or divorce.
- For the country of Spain, and for S & K serving in the city of Malaga.

OFFERING

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).

If you missed 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.

SONG OF PRAISE

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

*For God alone my soul waits
in silence; from him comes
my salvation. – Psalm 62:1*

*Sandra McCracken
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*For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You*

O Lord of life, our only hope
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts

Oh Joy above, all other loves
In You we find, more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore,
Come light our hearts

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 AM)

SCRIPTURE READING

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:25-36

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts are worshipping 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, You alone are full of grace and truth,
but we have not kept watch for You.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have sought our own glory above Yours.
We have not waited to find Your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of others around us.
We have not acknowledged Your favor
and the love that You have shown us.
Forgive us for our sins against You.
Heavenly Father, help us to yield to the wisdom of Your ways;
Lord Jesus, lead us to live in light of Your coming;
Holy Spirit, give us faith to see that You are truly among us;
Amen.**

Silent Confession

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Hebrews 9:28

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.

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.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS US BY HIS GRACE

SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

TRINITY SONG

Holy Father, Son and Spirit;
Holy Communion, Three in One.

Come with Your peace, with Your invitation;
Bind us together in holy love.

*"They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger." – Luke 2:16
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ALL THINGS NEW

1. Come, Lord, and tarry not;
Bring the long looked for day;
O, why these years of waiting here,
These ages of decay?

2. Come, for Thy saints still wait;
Daily ascends their sigh;
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come";
Does Thou not hear the cry?

*O come and make all things new!
Come and make all things new!
O come and make all things new!
Build up this ruined Earth—
Come and make all things new,
All things new.*

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." – Revelation 21:5
Text: Horatius Bonar (1846) Music: Clint Wells © 2009 Red Mountain Music Used by permission. CCLI #708363

3. Come, for creation groans,
Impatient of Thy stay,
Worn out with these long years of ill,
These ages of delay.

4. Come, for love waxes cold,
Its steps are faint and slow;
Faith now is lost in unbelief,
Hope's lamp burns dim and low.

NONE OTHER LAMB

1. None other Lamb, none other name,
None other hope in heaven or sea,
No hiding place from guilt and shame,
None beside Thee, none beside Thee!

*All who labor and are heavy laden
Come unto Me and I will give you rest.*

2. My faith burns low, my hope burns low;
Only my heart's desire cries out in me
By the deep thunder of its want and woe,
Cries out to Thee, cries out to Thee.

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." – Psalm 73:25
Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Tune: Alex Mejias, Ross Byrd (2009)
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3. Lord, Thou art Life, though I be dead;
Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be:
No heav'n have I, no place for my head,
No home but Thee, no home but Thee!

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 a word 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.

Children's Ministry Director Heather Jarvis gave today's Children's Message.

Music was led by Tim Toy, along with Grace Coman, Buddy Miner, Katie Jensen, Donald Smith, and Troy Arnold.