



West End  
presbyterian church

# WEPC LECTIONARY PROJECT: UNION WITH CHRIST

In this 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://wepc.org/lectionary).

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2018

Malachi 3:1-4

*He Refines & Purifies*

Luke 1:68-79

*God's Tender Mercy*

Philippians 1:3-11

*A Harvest of Righteousness*

Luke 3:1-6

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

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### Reflection on Sunday, December 9

#### Monday

Isaiah 40:1-11

*The Earth Prepares*

Romans 8:22-25

*All Creation Groans*

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 19:18-25

*All Nations Shall Praise God*

II Peter 1:2-15

*Living God's Call*

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 35:3-7

*God's Advent Will Change Everything*

Luke 7:18-30

*John the Baptist Questions Jesus*

#### Daily

Psalm 126

*Prayer for Restoration*

### Preparation for Sunday, December 16

#### Thursday

Amos 6:1-8

*Self-Indulgence*

II Corinthians 8:1-15

*Generosity*

#### Friday

Amos 8:4-12

*Do Not Trample the Needy*

II Corinthians 9:1-15

*The Fruit of Giving*

#### Saturday

Amos 9:8-15

*God Will Set Things Right*

Luke 1:57-66

*The Birth of John the Baptist*

#### Daily

Isaiah 12:2-6

*The Holy One in Your Midst*

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Two things jump out at me regarding the story of John the Baptist. The first is that the first words of Gabriel (God's messenger) were "Do not be afraid"—the first words of the Gospel spoken from God.

Second, is that Zechariah was not only mute, but apparently deaf for the duration and more of Elizabeth's pregnancy. A little silence goes along way. His hymn of praise is one of the most beautiful in the Scriptures.

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

### Second 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.

### TENDER MERCY

"In all my distress and persecution  
I turn my eyes to the heavens  
and confidently await as judge the very One  
who has already stood trial  
in my place before God  
and so has removed  
the whole curse from me.

All His enemies and mine  
He will condemn to  
everlasting punishment:  
but me and all His chosen ones  
He will take along with Him  
into the joy and the glory of heaven."

– *Heidelberg Catechism 52 (1563)*

## 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

Как написано в книге пророка Исаии:

«Голос раздаётся в пустыне:  
„Приготовьте путь Господу,  
сделайте прямыми дороги Его!

Всякий овраг пусть будет засыпан,  
а всякая гора и холм – опустятся;  
извилистые пути пусть станут прямыми,  
и неровные – пусть станут ровными,

чтобы все человечество увидело Божье спасение“»

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

# INVOCATION

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Luke 3:4-6*

*Today's call to worship  
was read in Russian by  
Peter Blinov.*

## **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.

# 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!

*from the  
Book of Common Prayer*

Music: Alex Mejias  
& Ross Byrd  
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*“Glory to God in the  
highest!” – Luke 2:14*

# Welcome

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

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Malachi 3:1-2*

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

## MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 126  
A Song of Ascents*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

**The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!

**Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!**

He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

*Pray for Our Church, Our City, and the World. This week:*

- For West End Presbyterian Church, that we would be given grace to know and offer the peace & comfort of the Gospel.
- For the households and families of Metropolitan Richmond: For those who are lonely or have no family. For those who are estranged from family. For those who grieve the loss of those they love. For the Church, the family of God.
- For the country of Jordan, and for M. as he serves there.

# OFFERING

*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.*

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. See p.14 for more information.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 1:68-79*

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
<sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

## SERMON

*A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at [wepc.org/sermons](http://wepc.org/sermons).*

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover..."

*Luke 22:7-8, 14-20, 29-30*

When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you..."

"And I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful Father, we come to you at Advent with the brokenness of the world in our eyes, the cries of injustice, loneliness, and sadness in our ears, and the rebellion and failure of sin in our hearts. O promised Christ: We are a world at war; our peace depends on Your coming. We are an unfulfilled, longing people; our hope depends upon Your coming. We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on Your coming. Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, forgive our sins, comfort our hearts, and lift our eyes to look for Your glorious return with hope and joy. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

*Silent 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.

# WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Your warfare is ended;  
Your sins are pardoned;  
The penalty for your rebellion is paid.

*based on Isaiah 40:1-2*

# 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

## LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep — si - lence, and with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of — Ma - ry, as of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of — hea - ven spreads its van - guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged se - raph, che - ru - bim, with

trem - bling — stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly — min - ded,  
 earth he — stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man — ves - ture,  
 on the — way, as the Light of light des - cend - eth,  
 sleep - less — eye, veil their fa - ces to the — Pre - sence,

for with bles - sing in his — hand Christ our Lord to earth des -  
 in the bo - dy and the — blood, he will give to all the  
 from the realms of end - less — day, that the powers of hell may  
 as with cease - less voice they — cry: "Al - le - lu - ia al - le -

lend - eth, our full ho - mage to de - mand.  
 faith - ful, his own self for heaven - ly — food.  
 va - nish as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Lord most — high!"

"The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him." – Habbakuk 2:20

Text: Liturgy of St. James, paraphrased by Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

Tune: French Carol (17<sup>th</sup> c.) arr. Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

*"The virgin will... give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel." – Isaiah 7:14*

Original words (vv. 1-2) trans. by J. M. Neale (1851). Tune: VENI EMMANUEL. Alt. and add. words (vv. 3-5) by Steve Cook and Bob Kauflin © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise Used by permission. CCLI #708363

## COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see Thee,  
Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to Earth."

3. Come to Earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*"The Lord has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives." – Isaiah 61:1*  
Text: Charles Wesley (1744); Mark E. Hunt (1978) (v. 2-3) Tune: HYFRYDOL (Prichard, 1830)

# 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.*

*Music was led by Trey Wickham, along with Jen Wickham, Sonya Smith, Mollie Bowman, Randall Ingram, Rick Hepner, Tiffanie Chan, Jamison Taggart, and Jason Weippert.*