

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.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice in God

Isaiah 12:2-6

The Holy One of Israel is in Your Midst

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, The Lord is Near

Luke 3:7-18

One More Powerful is Coming

Reflection on Sunday, December 16

Monday

Numbers 16:1-19

Korah's Rebellion

Hebrews 13:7-17

Respect for Leaders

Tuesday

Numbers 16:20-35

Korah's Destruction

Acts 28:23-31

Paul Preaches in Rome

Wednesday

Micah 4:8-13

God Will Thresh Out the People

Luke 7:31-35

The Messiah & John the Baptist

Daily

Isaiah 11:1-9

A Ruler Will Bring Justice & Peace

Preparation for Sunday, December 23

Thursday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A New Covenant Written on the Heart

Hebrews 10:10-18

A High Priest & Final Sacrifice

Friday

Isaiah 42:10-18

Sing to God a New Song

Hebrews 10:32-39

Confidence & Great Reward

Saturday

Isaiah 66:7-11

New Life from the Lord

Luke 13:31-35

The Longing & Lament of the Lord

Daily

Psalms 80:1-7

Let Your Face Shine

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

God loves you and has wonderful plan for your life.

You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee the wrath to come?

Could it be that both of these sentences are essentially saying the same thing to us?

Warmly,
Steve

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

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Third 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.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

WHAT THEN SHALL WE DO?

"Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to humanity its ancient glory; and let us pray that He may be formed in us, the hope of glory... Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

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

افْرَحُوا فِي الرَّبِّ كُلَّ حِينٍ، وَأَقُولُهَا ثَانِيَةً: افرَحُوا!
أُرِيدُ أَنْ يَشْهَدَ كُلُّ النَّاسِ عَنْ لُطْفِكُمْ. تَذَكَّرُوا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَرِيبٌ.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4-5

Today's call to worship was read in Arabic by Alfred Benyamin.

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*from the
Book of Common Prayer*

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!

*"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" – Revelation 4:8
Text: Reginald Heber (1826) Tune: NICAEA (Dykes)*

Welcome

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

Presentation of New Members

9 AM

Robert & Jessica Cochrane
Matt, Kristen, & Vicky Osenga
Jean Saber

10:30 AM

Addie Chippendale
Grant Cornwell
Rick & Debbie Nelson
Nathan & Liam Oberle
Abigail Perry
Andrew & Bethany Woolfolk

This morning's membership vows and covenant baptisms were administered by Pastor Kevin Greene.

Covenant Baptisms

9 AM

Angela Cacciatore Wong

10:30 AM

Charlotte Ruth Long
Frederick Jonathan Shore
Brady Lloyd Woolfolk
Ryan Robertson Woolfolk

Charlotte Ruth Long was baptized by her grandfather, Harry Long, pastor of Sycamore Presbyterian Church.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid.

Isaiah 12:2-6

**For the LORD God is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon His name,**

Make known His deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

- For the children of West End Presbyterian Church.
- For the households and families of Metropolitan Richmond;
for the care and protection for the unborn, infants, children,
and youth; for little ones and youth to know the love of God
in Jesus Christ.
- For British South Asians residing in the United Kingdom;
for A. & S. as they serve there.

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 WORSHIP (10:30 AM)

During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed for Children's Worship. See p.18 for more information.

SCRIPTURE Reading

John the Baptist said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3:7-18

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

Mark 14:16-25

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Silent Confession

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

First Communion

9 AM

Vicky Osenga

10:30 AM

Addie Chippendale

Grant Cornwell

Nathan & Liam Oberle

Abigail Perry

Vicky, Addie, Grant, Nathan, Liam, and Abigail recently met with the Elders, who heard their testimonies of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite them and their families to receive communion first.

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

WHO IS THIS, SO WEAK AND HELPLESS

1. Who is this, so weak and helpless,
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered,
Coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation,
Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting,
And to everlasting God.

2. Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,
Walking sadly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing,
Where no tear can dim the eye.

3. Who is this? Behold him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, Who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne.

4. Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors,
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God Who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city,
Reigning everlastingly.

"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death..." – Phillipians 2:8
Words: William How (1867) Music: Christopher Miner © 2009 Christopher Miner Music Used by permission. CCLI 708363

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer our spirits by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

3. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

"The virgin will... give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel." – Isaiah 7:14
Text: 18th c. Latin hymn, translated by J.M. Neale Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

IN CHRIST ALONE

1. In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

*"I count everything as loss be-
cause of the surpassing worth
of knowing Christ Jesus my
Lord." – Philippians 3:8*

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DOXOLOGY

*"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.

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.

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 **Chris Newlin**, along with Audrey Snyder, Becca Wethered,
Kevin Shaffer, Tiffanie Chan, Tyler Pease, and Jason Weippert.