



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).

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018

Micah 5:2-5a

*A Ruler from Bethlehem*

Psalms 80:1-7

*Let Your Face Shine*

Hebrews 10:5-10

*I Have Come to Do Your Will*

Luke 1:39-55

*Blessed are You Among Women*

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## The Nativity of Christ

### Monday: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Unto Us a Child is Born*

Luke 2:1-20

*God With Us*

Psalms 96

*Let the Earth be Glad*

### Tuesday: Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

*Announcing Salvation*

John 1:1-14

*The Word Became Flesh*

Hebrews 1:1-4

*God has Spoken*

Psalms 98

*The Victory of God*

## Preparation for SUN, December 30

### Wednesday

II Chronicles 24:17-24

*The Stoning of Zechariah*

Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60

*The Stoning of Stephen*

### Thursday

Proverbs 8:32-36

*Listen to Wisdom*

John 21:19b-24

*John's Testimony*

### Friday

Isaiah 54:1-13

*Steadfast Love*

Revelation 21:1-7

*New Heavens & New Earth*

### Saturday

I Chronicles 28:1-10

*Solomon will Build the Temple*

I Corinthians 3:10-17

*The Temple of the Spirit*

### Daily

Psalms 148

*God's Splendor*

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

The first faithful response to the Incarnation, indeed perhaps the confirmation of the Incarnation is from an unseen source. A fetus.

We only know that John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb because she felt it and spoke about it. Her speech confirming the presence of Jesus inside Mary is what leads to Mary's song.

Think about that. From the mouths of babes. Literally, from the kicks and jumps of an unborn child, God bears witness to himself and to his saving promise.

Warmly,  
Steve

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

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### Fourth 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

### BLESSED

The eternal Son of God,  
Who is and remains true and eternal God,  
took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,  
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,  
a truly human nature  
so that He might become David's true descendant,  
like His brothers in every way except for sin.

—Heidelberg Catechism 35 (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

Nami nitatikisa mataifa yote, na vitu vinavyotamaniwa na mataifa yote vitakuja; nami nitaijaza nyumba hii utukufu, asema Bwana wa majeshi. Fedha ni maliyangu, na dhahabu ni mali yangu, asema Bwana wa majeshi.

“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.

*Haggai 2:7-8*

*Today's call to worship was read in Swahili by Joseph Kariuki.*

## **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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*from the  
Book of Common Prayer*

# SONG OF ADORATION

## **O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
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!*

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo! He is born of the Virgin's womb.  
Very God, begotten not created:

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

*“Let us go to Bethlehem and see...” Luke 2:15*

*Text: Latin hymn; ascribed to John Francis Wade (c. 1735), translated by Frederick Oakley  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Wade)*

# Welcome

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

# PRESENTATION OF New MEMBERS

This morning's membership  
vows were administered by  
Pastor Joe Brown.

10:30 AM  
Clara Campbell  
Lizzie, Merryn, and Ruby Childress

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Micah 5:2-5*

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace.

## MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalms 80:1-7. 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!**

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church, that we might know the favor and power we have in Christ to proclaim the Gospel and be peacemakers.
- For the households and families of Metropolitan Richmond:  
For those suffering estrangement, abuse, divorce, and conflict at home.
- For Kenya, Uganda & South Sudan, for Michael & Karen Masso who have served alongside the church in these nations.

# 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

## LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,<br>Once for favored sinners slain,<br>Once for favored sinners slain;<br>Thousand, thousand saints attending<br>Swell the triumph of His train,<br>Swell the triumph of His train.<br>Hallelujah! Hallelujah!<br>God appears on earth to reign. | 3. Every island, sea, and mountain,<br>Heav'n and earth shall flee away,<br>Heav'n and earth shall flee away;<br>All who hate Him must, confounded,<br>Hear the trump proclaim the Day,<br>Hear the trump proclaim the Day;<br>Come to judgment! Come to judgment!<br>Come, Lord Jesus, come! |
| 2. Every eye shall now behold Him<br>Robed in dreadful majesty,<br>Robed in dreadful majesty;<br>Those who set at naught and sold Him,<br>Pierced and nailed Him to the Tree,<br>Pierced and nailed Him to the Tree,<br>Deeply wailing, deeply wailing<br>Shall the true Messiah see.   | 4. Now Redemption, long expected<br>See in solemn pomp appear!<br>See in solemn pomp appear!<br>All His saints, by man rejected,<br>Now shall meet Him in the air,<br>Now shall meet Him in the air.<br>Hallelujah! Hallelujah!<br>See the Day of God appear!                                 |

*"Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him..." Revelation 1:7*  
St. 1-2 Charles Wesley (1758); St. 3-4 John Cennick (1752); alt. Martin Madan (1760)  
Music Adapted from Zac Hicks ©2009 Unbudding Fig Music Used by permission. CCLI #708363

# 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 1:39-55*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

## 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

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus. They did as He had directed them, and prepared the Passover.

*from Matthew 26:17-29*

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

"Arise, shine: for your Light has come."

*based on Isaiah 60:1-3*

**Heavenly Father, forgive us;  
we have lived as if the Light of the World  
had not overcome the darkness of our sin.**

## **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.

"And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

**Lord Jesus Christ, redeem us;  
We confess that we sought our own glory  
as we grew impatient for Your advent.**

"For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you."

**Holy Spirit, renew us;  
We have often grown accustomed to darkness,  
and so hardened the true yearnings of our waiting hearts.**

"And nations shall come to Your light,  
and kings to the brightness of Your rising."

**Almighty God, You came to us in the fullness of time.  
Draw us to live in Your presence and grace.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

# WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

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

*1 Timothy 1:15*

# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**First Communion** (10:30 AM)

Clara Campbell

Lizzie, Merryn, and Ruby Childress

*Clara, Lizzie, Merryn, and Ruby recently met with the Elders, who heard their testimonies of faith in Jesus Christ. We invite the Campbell and Childress 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

### AMEN, AMEN

Let every creature rise and bring  
their grateful praises to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again  
and Earth repeats a loud "Amen":

*Amen, Amen  
Amen, Amen  
My life is found  
My life is found in Him  
Amen, Amen*

Peace like a river from His throne  
will flow to nations yet unknown;  
His Word a light where all hope is dim  
and all tribes unite to cry "Amen":

And in this Child we'll find our rest,  
and all the meek and lowly blessed,  
And infant tongues can sing the hymn  
of "Hallelujah and Amen":

### WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

*"Yes, I am coming soon." Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus." – Revelation 22:20*

Words & Music: Neil & Kate Robins  
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### WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE KING

Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King!

*Halleluiah! Halleluiah!  
We are going to see the King.*

No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King!

No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King!

*"Wait for the Lord." – Psalm 27:14*  
Song from Taizé, music: Jacques  
Berthier (1923-1994) © Ateliers et  
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*"Of His Kingdom there will be no  
end." – Luke 1:33*

Andraé Crouch (1976)  
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## IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old, —  
 2. And ye, be - neath life's cru - shing load, whose forms are ben - ding low, —  
 3. For lo! the days are has - tening on, by pro - phet seen of old, —

from an - gels ben - ding near the earth to touch their harps of gold: —  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow, —  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told —

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gra - cious King." —  
 look now! for glad and gol - den hours come swift - ly on the wing. —  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling, —

The world in so - lemn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" – Luke 2:14*  
 Text: Edmund Sears (1849) Tune: CAROL (Willis, 1850)

# 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 Joe Brown led worship.*

*Music was led by Pastor Kevin Greene, along with Sonya Smith, Lori Bowman, Rick McMahon, Taylor Barnett, Elena Porter, Suzie Bird, Karl Kuder, Harrison Weippert and Jason Weippert.*