



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.

Epiphany of the Lord: January 6, 2019

Isaiah 60:1-6
Nations Will Come

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
All Shall Bow

Ephesians 3:1-12
The Mystery of Christ

Matthew 2:1-12
Christ Revealed to the Nations

Isaiah foretold the coming of the Wise Men (Isaiah 60:1-6). These kings followed the light of a star, travelled to Bethlehem from the East, and sought to bring gifts to the Christ child (Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14). Upon their arrival, they rejoiced and worshipped Him (Matthew 2:1-12). Through God's grace in Jesus Christ for us, we are given the light of the Gospel of God's salvation intended for the nations (Ephesians 3:1-12).

Reflection on SUN, January 6

Monday

Daniel 2:1-19
The King Seeks Wisdom

Ephesians 4:17-5:1
New Life

Tuesday

Daniel 2:24-49
God Gives Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-20
Wise Living in Evil Days

Wednesday

Numbers 24:15-19
I See Him, but Not Now

Luke 1:67-79
He has Visited & Redeemed His People

Daily

Psalms 72
Give the King Your Justice

Preparation for SUN, January 13

Thursday

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
Nothing New Under the Sun

I Corinthians 1:18-31
Wise & Foolish

Friday

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
Vain Self-Indulgence

I Corinthians 2:1-10
Wisdom in Weakness

Saturday

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
God Has Done It

I Corinthians 2:11-16
The Spirit Imparts Wisdom

Daily

Psalms 29
All Cry Glory

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Our Confession of Faith (The Westminster Confession of Faith) does not list offerings as an essential element of worship. I quibble with this a bit.

In today's passage, we see the Wise Men indicate that they have come to worship and they do so, at least in part, by giving gifts—extravagant gifts even. I believe this is important.

By giving these very expensive gifts, the Wise Men are saying, "You (Jesus) are more important than these things. Our joy is made complete in you, not in this stuff."

That is a good discipline for our souls. I want to thank you and note the incredible generosity of this congregation in the month of December. I am sure that sacrifices were made and they reflect your conviction that Jesus is worth more than our stuff.

Warmly,
Steve

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

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

PCA | pcanet.org

Epiphany of the Lord

In the Christian year, Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6—after the close of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations. Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and “God with us,” and the Church’s role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

CHRIST REVEALED TO THE NATIONS

“Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its Savior in a cave. Let there be no one without...gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer, ‘dust you are and dust you shall return,’ but ‘you are now joined to heaven and into heaven shall you be taken up.’”

—*Basil the Great, 4th century sermon on Matthew 2*

“Were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death,
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.”

—*from T. S. Eliot, “The Journey of the Magi”*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1-3

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.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**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.

**And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

INVOCATION

SONG OF ADORATION

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

1. The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty—
Let all the earth rejoice,
Let all the earth rejoice!

He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice,
And trembles at His voice:

*How great is our God!
Sing with me:
How great is our God!
All will see how great,
How great is our God!*

2. Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.

The Godhead three-in-one:
Father, Spirit, Son;
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb:

*Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing
How great is our God!*

*"You are clothed with
splendor and majesty."
— Psalm 104:1*

Chris Tomlin,
Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves
© 2004 sixsteps Music
Used by permission.
CCLI #708363

Welcome

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Ephesians 3:4-12

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!**

May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

**May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!**

For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.

**He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

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

- For West End Presbyterian Church, that we would grow in confidence that we are the Lord's and have access to Him by His grace (Ephesians 3:12).
- For Metropolitan Richmond. Pray to overcome racism, its effects, and for racial reconciliation. Pray to overcome ignorance, indifference, resentment, and bitterness with regard to race in private and public life.
- For the Czech Republic, and Phil & Shanna Davis serving with Serge in Prague.

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

LET ME FIND THEE

1. Behold me here, in grief draw near,
Pleading at Thy throne oh King.
To Thee each tear, each trembling fear,
Jesus Son of Man I bring.

*Let me find Thee, Let me find Thee.
Let me find Thee, Lord of mercy, King of grace.*

2. Look down in love, and from above,
With Thy Spirit satisfy.
Thou hast sought me, Thou hast bought me,
And thy purchase Lord am I.

*Let me find Thee, Let me find Thee.
Let me find Thee, Here on earth and then on high.*

3. Hear the broken, scarcely spoken,
Longings of my heart to thee
All the crying, all the sighing,
Of Thy child accepted be.

*Let me find Thee, Let me find Thee.
Let me find Thee, Wounded healer, suffering Lord.*

Text: Joachim Neander (1679)
Tune: Matthew S. Smith
© 2012 detuned radio music

*“Come and take the free gift
of the water of life.”
– Revelation 22:17*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 AM)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

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. 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."

from Matthew 26:17-29

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.
If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,
we lie and do not practice the truth.
But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar,
and His word is not in us.**

**If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.
He is the propitiation for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

from 1 John 1:5-2:2

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.

Silent Confession

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:9,12

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

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 © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise Used by permission. CCLI #708363

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 because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." – Philippians 3:8

Text/Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2002 Kingsway Thankyou Music Used by permission. CCLI #: 708363

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O Come all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning

come ye O come ye to Beth - le - hem.
sing all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
Je - sus to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, in the high - est; O
Word of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

come let us a - dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him, O

come let us a - dore Him Christ the Lord!

"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)

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.

Pastor Joe Brown gave the Children’s Message.

Music was led by Trey Wickham, along with Jen Wickham, Jill Wiebe-King, Elena Porter, Randall Ingram, Rick Hepner, Tiffanie Chan, Pat Reynolds, and Jason Weippert.