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**WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ***

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through December 2019. 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.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit [www.wepc.org/lectionary](http://www.wepc.org/lectionary).

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**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

*The First Sunday of Advent*

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#) *All The Nations*

[Psalm 122](#) *Let Us Go to the House of the LORD*

[Romans 13:11-14](#) *Salvation is Nearer*

[Matthew 24:36-44](#) *The Son of Man is Coming*

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**Monday, December 2**

[Psalm 124](#) *If It Had Not Been the LORD*

[Genesis 8:1-19](#) *The Waters Subsided*

[Romans 6:1-11](#) *Alive to God*

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**Tuesday, December 3**

[Psalm 124](#) *If It Had Not Been the LORD*

[Genesis 9:1-17](#) *I Will Remember My Covenant*

[Hebrews 11:32-40](#) *God Had Provided Something Better*

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**Wednesday, December 4**

[Psalm 124](#) *If It Had Not Been the LORD*

[Isaiah 54:1-10](#) *My Covenant of Peace*

[Matthew 24:23-35](#) *The Coming of the Son of Man*

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**Thursday, December 5**

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#) *Wondrous*

[Isaiah 4:2-6](#) *The Branch*

[Acts 1:12-17, 21-26](#) *Fulfilled*

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**Friday, December 6**

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#) *Wondrous*

[Isaiah 30:19-26](#) *Your Eyes Shall See*

[Acts 13:16-25](#) *As He Promised*

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**Saturday, December 7**

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#) *Wondrous*

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#) *Comfort*

[John 1:19-28](#) *The Voice*

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## Salvation is Nearer

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Romans 13:11-14](#).

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- What is a “collect”?
- “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.” (*Collect for the First Sunday of Advent, Book of Common Prayer*)
- “It can be argued that Advent, more than any other season of the church year, is immediately relevant to our concrete lives as individuals, to the concrete life of the church under stress, and to the concrete headlines in the newspaper. The reason for that is that Advent tells us about our lives as followers of Christ right now. Advent is where we live, work, play, laugh, struggle and die. Advent is the Time Between-between the first coming of Christ and the second coming, between darkness and dawn, between the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of God. It is not the time of fulfilment (you know the time), it is the time of waiting. It is not the time of seeing face to face; it is the time of seeing through a glass darkly. It is not the time of triumph, but of bearing the cross.” (*Fleming Rutledge*)
- The time we are in, is that time when it is still night but the dayspring is at hand (12). It is almost sunrise, dawn, but not quite.
- So, we are to live in the light. We do this by putting on the armor of light. Why armor? Because we are in a struggle, a war, really, against the darkness in ourselves and in the world around us. We are in the dark and, God knows, that the dark is in us. The armor is not a thing but a person, “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (14).
- We are not of the dark, but the dark is pervasively in us, and around us.
- And so we wait, and live and walk properly.
- How do we do that?
- By waking up (11). Shaking off our slothfulness.
- By making “no provision for the flesh” (14).
- What will motivate us?
- God hates the works of darkness and He will root it out once and for all.
- He will not permit the works of darkness to endure.
- As sinners we will be judged, but not condemned.

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit [www.wepc.org/archivedsermons](http://www.wepc.org/archivedsermons)  
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)