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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, 25 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 22, 2019**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

[Isaiah 7:10-16](#) *Immanuel*  
[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#) *Restore Us*  
[Romans 1:1-7](#) *He Promised*  
[Matthew 1:18-25](#) *God With Us*

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### **Monday, December 23**

*Reflection on the Fourth Sunday of Advent*

[Luke 1:46b-55](#) *Great Things for Me*  
[II Samuel 7:18, 23-29](#) *This Good Thing*  
[Galatians 3:6-14](#) *Faith*

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### **Tuesday, December 24**

*Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Eve*

[Isaiah 52:7-10](#) *The Return of the LORD*  
[Psalm 98](#) *Made Known*  
[Hebrews 1:1-4](#) *He Has Spoken*  
[John 1:1-14](#) *The Word Became Flesh*

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### **Wednesday, December 25**

*Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day*

[Isaiah 62:6-12](#) *Behold*  
[Psalm 97](#) *The LORD Reigns*  
[Titus 3:4-7](#) *Appeared*  
[Luke 2:1-20](#) *Glory*

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## God With Us

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people

from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- What to do when Christmas falls on a Sunday?
- First century Jewish marriage customs
- The burst of Divine and Angelic activity at the beginning of the New Testament...
  - Zechariah and Elizabeth
  - Mary
  - Joseph
- The surprising work of God.
- This child was not the result of Mary's infidelity, but of God's fidelity. Not Mary's unfaithfulness, but God's faithfulness. Not a result of sin, but to save from sin. To save Joseph from his sins. To save the world from sin. So take her as your wife, the angel said. This is bigger than both of you.
- How was it bigger? God had repeated a promise over and over to His people.
- Genesis 3
- Isaiah 7
- Matthew 1
- Call Him Jesus
- Call Him Immanuel

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