



# WESLEY

## EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Weems, Virginia*

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**

Matthew 28:19 NIV

**December 28, 2025**

*The First Sunday of Christmas*

**Prelude**

**Hymn #249 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

**All: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship**

**Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

Pastor: When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**All: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

Pastor: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Hymn #281 What Child is This? 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> verses**

**Prayer of Confession**

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected,

maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Gloria Patri**

### **Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

### **Doxology**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank you for your indescribable gift of your only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and offerings today. With your blessing, may they be multiplied and used to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for your many blessings and your claim on our lives to share them with others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

### **Hymn #288 We Three Kings 1st & 2nd verses**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

O God, who comes quietly and stays faithfully, in these days of reflection and wonder, speak again. Let the joy of your coming ripple through your Word. Guide us with your light. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

### **Children's Church**

### **Scripture Readings:**

Daniel 2:48

Matthew 2:1-12

Isaiah 43:18-19

### **Sermon: The Journey**

### **Hymn #258 Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

### **Benediction**

**Sending Song:** May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever

Prayers: <https://www.pastorjasonelder.com/liturgy/christmas-prayers-of-illumination>; <https://pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-12-28.pdf>; <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Christmas-1-Bible-Study.pdf>

