

RedeemerLife

Redeemer Presbyterian Church Spring 2021

Post-COVID

by Rev. Eric Landry

As I reflect on this last year, I am profoundly grateful to all of you for the grace and patience you have exhibited toward me and the session as we have tried to navigate our COVID world. As I joked with some friends recently, “I don’t recall the class in seminary about leading a church during a pandemic!” But you have followed our leadership—even when some of you have disagreed with decisions we have made—with love and longsuffering kindness.

It pains me when I hear of other churches that are suffering church splits over their reactions to COVID. I also know that despite our relative unanimity over the last 12 months, there is always a danger of hurt feelings, pent up frustrations, and general unhappiness with the leadership of the church. Sometimes that can boil over and create division where there once was unity. I think much of this can be avoided if we take the following steps in our post-COVID world:

1. Don’t fill your minds with poisonous words. Unfortunately, there are voices in the Christian online community that would encourage division over masks, vaccines, and government lockdowns. Some of these voices may have been helpful to you in the past, so you turn to them for insight into our current situation; but instead of building you and the body of Christ up, they are intent on tearing the church apart. The more you try to hear and understand people who think and behave differently from you, the more you will be known as a peacemaker.
2. When you see someone at church (maybe you have returned to public worship after a long time away or they have recently returned), don’t assume that they have made a wrong choice and you have made the right choice. Don’t assume that they think they have made the right choice and think that you have made the wrong choice! Instead of asking, “where have you been?” or “why did you choose to return to worship so quickly?”, ask “what has God taught you over this past year? How has God shown himself to be faithful to you? How can we pray for one another as life returns to normal?”
3. Embrace the challenge of change. Whether you have worshiped at Redeemer for its entire existence or are relatively new to the church, whether you have stayed home or were the first ones through the door when we resumed worship in May, expect and embrace that our life together has changed. New friendships have formed. Old friendships have suffered. New faces now sit where you used to sit. We have suffered loss as beloved members have died. Some have moved away. New leaders have emerged. Old leaders are pursuing other opportunities. Rather than seeing these changes as insurmountable barriers to our life together, we need to embrace them as the next steps in our joint pilgrimage. Embracing the challenge of change means that we lean into uncomfortable situations with expectation rather than fear; it means that we look for God at work in the people around us and pray that God would use us as instruments of his power and grace.

Maybe you could come up with another three steps or more ideas to help strengthen our life together. If so, I’d love to hear them. In fact, I want to hear from you if you would be willing to participate in a post-COVID reentry team. This team will help all of us embrace the challenge of change in the weeks and months to come. I have a few ideas of what that looks like, but I’d love for others to share their ideas and their passion for the unity of the church. Please email me at elandry@redeemerpres.org if you’d be interested in participating.

Looking Ahead

**Holbrook Organ:
Fri, Apr 30**

7:30 p.m.

**Intro to Redeemer
Class: Sun, May 2**

2:30 p.m.

**Ascension Day
Service: Thu, May 13**

7:00 p.m.

**Pentecost Feast:
Sun, May 23**

5:30 p.m.

*Events listed are planned
as of April 4, 2021*



Church Life

Birth Announcements

Berkeley Kate Beck

Praise the Lord for the birth of Heather and Dave Beck's daughter, Berkeley Kate, on February 8.

Honey Fern Metka

With praises and thanksgiving! The Metka family announces the birth of another daughter, Honey Fern, born March 11 at home.

Tess Carroll Knippa

We praise the Lord for the birth of Achaia and Clayton Knippa's daughter, Tess Carroll. Tess was born March 24.

Please pray for these families, and join them in rejoicing at the births of these new covenant children.

Holbrook Organ Series

We are continuing our partnership with Arts on Alexander to bring you the Holbrook Organ series. We have one concert this quarter:

Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.: Eric Mellenbruch, Associate Director of Music and Organist, St. David's Episcopal Church.

New Staff Member: Anna Blauw

As part of our recent staff changes, we welcome Anna Blauw to the Redeemer staff as a part-time employee. Anna will be working primarily as music librarian and choir assistant. We're grateful that the Lord has provided an experienced person for this role just when our need arose!



Anna joined Redeemer last fall after moving to Austin to start her graduate program. She is a first-year Master's student at UT studying harp performance. She moved from Minnesota via Iowa, where she did her undergrad work in music education at Dordt University. She has been singing with the Redeemer Choir for the past few months and says, "I am excited to contribute to the life of the church by now working in the music library! In addition to singing and playing harp, I love to read, bake, and be outside."

New Members and Baptisms: February 7

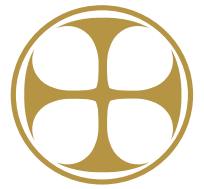


Top left: the Loomis family. Steven, Rebecca, Nehemiah, Priscilla Jane, and Hosea joined the church. Baby Ezekiel was baptized.

Top middle: the Knippa family. Sky and Elizabeth, with children Wyatt and Bryce, brought baby Logan to be baptized.

Top right: the Holt family. Jacob and Meagan brought baby Christopher to be baptized.

Bottom: the Yonimiki family. Albert and Esther, with children Bi-enfait, Gloria, and Blessing, brought baby Gladys to be baptized.



Women’s Studies and Prayer Times

New Women’s Bible Study - Coming Soon!

Plans are in the works to resume the Saturday Women’s Reformed Inductive Bible Study (WRIBS) in May after a brief hiatus since January. Stay tuned for details on Slack and via email. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to Mary Anna Turner (maryannaturner@gmail.com or 512-922-4601).

Does Your Mind Ever Wander When You Pray?

Outside of worship on Sunday morning, it can be hard to find time during the week for prayer that is more than momentary. And even when we do sit down with our Bibles to pray, do you ever find that your mind wanders? Or that you’re praying the “same old things about the same old things”?

That’s why our three weekly women’s prayer times (all conveniently meeting online via Zoom) use Scripture as the basis for our prayers, mining the riches of the “script” that God has given us in the Book of Psalms and the New Testament epistles. This keeps our minds and hearts focused for a sustained 30 minutes (which can be a lot harder to do if you’re praying alone!). Hearing one another pray through these Spirit-inspired words, interspersed with our own personalized praises and petitions, can also enrich and enlarge our personal perspectives on the application of particular verses.

Newcomers are ALWAYS welcome; these weekly prayer times are not groups requiring an ongoing commitment. Anytime your schedule allows, please join us for prayer so that we may all be edified and encouraged by one another!

Women’s Weekly Prayer Times via Zoom

- Sundays, 5:30-6:00 p.m. Epistles-Based Prayer (focusing especially on prayer for unsaved loved one, prodigals and other long-term prayer concerns)
- Tuesday Mornings, 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. Psalms-Based Prayer (praying five psalms per day)
- Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Psalms-Based Prayer (praying five psalms per day)

All are welcome to stay logged on for 10 minutes of optional visiting/conversation after each prayer session, but none should ever feel obligated.

All Zoom links are posted on the Redeemer Women’s channel on Slack, or if you’d like them emailed or texted to you directly, please contact Mary Anna Turner (maryannaturner@gmail.com or 512-922-4601).

Redeemer’s First African Service

On Sunday, March 7, Redeemer hosted an evening worship service for the African community in Austin. The service was bilingual, with songs in both Swahili and English. Pastor Bryce preached (with a translator), and Albert Yonimiki led the congregation in singing.



Redeemer Presbyterian Church

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Austin, TX 78722

512.708.1232

redeemerpres.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Service Times:
8:45 & 11:15 a.m.

Session

Dan Allen
Rick Bocock
Scott Brister
Eric Landry
Landy Ligon
Barry McBee
Bret Mercer
Joel Pafford
Randy Scott
Joshua Torrey
Bryce Waller

Diaconate

Ben Haguewood
Chris Harbison
David Hendrix
Ken Kieley
Donald Kitchell
Sky Knippa
Micah Koch
David Parker

Deacons' Assistants

Jon Ahrens
Drew Alders
Taylor Alders
Clayton Knippa
Lee Maverick
Beverly Mercer
Aaron Rhinehart
Robyn Rhinehart
Nate Serven

Staff

Dan Allen, Director of Men's Ministry
Taylor Alders, Assistant Youth Director
Anna Blauw, Music Assistant
Elizabeth Brisola, Counselor
Cathy Collier, Office Manager
George Dupere, Chief Musician
Daniel Eaton, Youth Director
Teresa Hendrix, Assistant Kitchen Manager
Elizabeth Knippa, Event Coordinator
Eric Landry, Senior Pastor
Lisal McDonald, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Ryburn Mealer, Counselor
David Parker, Facility Manager
Michael Phillips, Organist
Christine Scott, Publications Assistant
Marcus Serven, Pastor of Christian Discipleship
Bryce Waller, Associate Pastor
Carol Waller, Director of Christian Education