

**REDEEMER**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## Welcome

Welcome to Redeemer Presbyterian Church! We are glad that you have joined with us to worship God. Please stay after the service and get to know others in our community who are calling Redeemer Presbyterian Church “home.” If you have any questions about our church, feel free to contact us using the information on the back of the bulletin.

When you arrive for worship, please observe silence as you prepare to enter into God’s Divine Service. Silence your cell phone, listen to the prelude, read the Words of Preparation and the Scripture lessons in the back of the bulletin, and join others in prayer and meditation.

## Our Worship

Our service is intentionally structured to reflect our belief that worship is God’s service to us, his people. By design, there are three parts to our worship: the Service of Entrance, the Service of the Word, and the Service of the Table.

The **Service of Entrance** begins when the choir sings the Introit, followed by our Hymn of Invocation, Call to Worship, and Prayer of Adoration. We will then join in a Corporate Confession of Sin, hear God’s Declaration of Absolution, and respond with the Gloria and Hymn of Gratitude or Psalm.

The **Service of the Word** will include readings from the Lectionary (a calendar-based system for reading through the Bible) along with corporate responses of song and prayer. The sermon is God’s Word to us and we ask that you listen attentively, asking the Holy Spirit to apply his Word to you in a particular way.

The **Service of the Table** begins with a Corporate Confession of Faith, followed by the Passing of the Peace, and the Collection of Tithes and Offerings. Our service concludes with the Lord’s Supper and Benediction. Our church partakes of the Lord’s Supper every week. We welcome to the table all baptized Christians who are trusting in Christ alone for their salvation, have made public profession of their faith, and are part of a local church. We offer both wine and grape juice (located in the center rings) in the communion tray. If you have any questions, please speak with a pastor.

## Your Children

We love kids! And we try to make them feel welcome during our worship service. You can help your children profit from the service by working through the bulletin with them. If your child needs a break from the service, please feel free to sit in the Narthex where you can still hear the service. You can also take young children to the Nursery. A private space is provided in the Nursery for nursing mothers.

## Between Services

Please join us in the courtyard for a time of fellowship with coffee and breakfast snacks. During the school year between services, we offer School of Discipleship classes for all ages. The next semester of School of Discipleship will begin January 12th.

Liturgical Color: Purple – the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the advent of the King.

Hearing enhancement devices available – please ask an usher.

WiFi: RedeemerPrivate | Password: wireless@office

# THE DIVINE SERVICE

December 8, 2024

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

*In Preparation*



*Please observe silence as you read, pray, and meditate.*

## PRELUDE

Leon Couch

*Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553* — J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Praeludium in C Major, BuxWV 137* — Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

## WORDS OF PREPARATION

Luke 3:1-20

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that at his second coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

# The Service of Entrance



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The Truth from Above* — Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love:  
Therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all, both rich and poor.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run, that he would redeem us by his Son.

## ❖ HYMN OF ENTRANCE

James Montgomery, 1821, 1828

CRÜGER

Johann Crüger, 1598-1662



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2. He comes with com - fort speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;  
3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4. O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth;  
from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed;



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.  
his name shall stand for - ev - er - that name to us is Love.

Minister: Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
**People: Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low:**  
 Minister: And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:  
**People: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.**  
 Minister: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**People: Amen.**  
 Minister: Let us pray.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

... world without end. **Amen.**

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Liber Usualis* DORIAN SERVICE KYRIE Thomas Tallis

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on  
 us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Minister: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Minister: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**People: Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION

Minister: Hear the Word of the Gospel: “Christ has died for our sins and been raised for our justification.” All you who repent of your sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, rejoice and be glad and give glory to the Lord who has taken away all of your sins in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

- ❖ Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- People: the Maker of heaven and earth.**
- Minister: O Lord, open our lips,
- People: and our mouth will declare your praise.**

❖ THE GLORIA AND HYMN OF GRATITUDE

*Gloria in Excelsis*

ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH SEI EHR

*Deutsche Evangelisch Messze, 1539*

All glo - ry be to thee, Most High, to thee all ad - o - ra - tion; in grace and  
truth thou draw - est nigh to of - fer us sal - va - tion; thou show - est thy good - will to  
men, and peace shall reign on earth a - gain; we praise thy name for - ev - er.

Johann Olearius, 1611-1684

FREU DICH SEHR

L. Bourgeois' *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

1. "Com - fort, com - fort these my peo - ple, speak of peace!" so says our God.
2. Yes, our sins the Lord will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed.
3. Now the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
4. Straight must be what long was crook - ed; make the rough - est plac - es plain!

"Com - fort these who sit in dark - ness groan - ing un - der sin's dread rod.  
All that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see nor heed.  
call - ing us to true re - pent - ance, for the king - dom now is here!  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y for his ho - ly reign!

To my peo - ple I pro - claim par - don now in Je - sus' name.  
We who lan - guished man - y a day un - der guilt now washed a - way,  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey, oh, pre - pare for God a way,  
Here the glo - ry of the Lord stands so gra - cious - ly re - vealed

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver!"  
we ex - change our pin - ing sad - ness for his com - fort, peace, and glad - ness!  
let the val - leys rise to meet him, let the hills bow down to greet him!  
that all peo - ples see the to - ken that God's Word is nev - er bro - ken!

# *The Service of the Word*



## ❖ THE PSALTER

Psalm 66:1-12

Minister: Be joyful in God, all you lands  
People: **sing praises to the honor of his Name; make his praise to be glorious.**  
Say to God, “How wonderful are your works;  
**through the greatness of your power shall your enemies cower before you.**  
For all the world shall worship you,  
**sing to you, and praise your Name.”**  
O come and see the works of God,  
**how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.**  
He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot;  
**therefore in him let us rejoice.**  
He rules with his power for ever; his eyes keep watch over the nations;  
**let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**  
Bless our God, you peoples,  
**and make the voice of his praise to be heard,**  
Who holds our soul in life,  
**and does not allow our feet to slip.**  
For you, O God, have proved us;  
**you have tried us, as silver is tried.**  
You brought us into the snare  
**and laid trouble upon our backs.**  
You allowed men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;  
**but you brought us out into a place of plenty.**

*Riu, Riu, Chiu* — Traditional Basque Carol

Judah Torrey, soloist

Riu, riu, chiu, Shepherd at the river:  
Guard us from the wolf, your people to deliver.

Tender is the lamb, the angry wolf no stranger;  
But almighty God protected her from danger:  
Favored by the Lord and blessed among women,  
By the Holy Spirit, Mary bore our Savior.

Riu, riu, chiu, Shepherd at the river:  
Guard us from the wolf, your people to deliver.

Now this newborn child is King of all creation;  
Savior clothed in flesh has come to every nation:  
To redeem us all, yet born a child so lowly;  
Come to earth from heaven, infinite and holy.

Riu, riu, chiu, Shepherd at the river:  
Guard us from the wolf, your people to deliver.

Prophets born of old have told us of his glory;  
Angels in the sky are echoing the story:  
“Glory be to God on high,” their voices singing;  
Earth resounds their tidings and with joy is ringing.

Riu, riu, chiu, Shepherd at the river:  
Guard us from the wolf, your people to deliver.

Mateo Flecha (1481-1553)

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Malachi 3:1-7b

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

❖ OUR RESPONSE

Paul Gerhardt 1607-1676                      WIE SOLL ICH EMPFANGEN                      Johann Crüger 1598-1662

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2. Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3. I lay in fet - ters, groan-ing; you came to set me free.  
 4. Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 and I too will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 and from your name shall ne - ver with - hold the hon - or due.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

5. Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
 Cannot his love erase;  
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
 And cover by his grace.  
 He comes, for you procuring  
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
 His children thus securing  
 Eternal life in heav'n.

6. He comes to judge the nations,  
 A terror to his foes,  
 A light of consolations  
 And blessed hope to those  
 Who love the Lord's appearing.  
 O glorious Sun, now come,  
 Send forth your beams so cheering,  
 And guide us safely home.

WELCOME

*At this time, please sign and pass the attendance pads down the row.*

INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Ruling Elder Andrew Waller

**Unison: 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. Amen.**

❖ THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-20

Minister: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ!

❖ PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING SERMON

Rev. Eric Landry

*Do You See What John Sees?*

Luke 3:1-20

# *The Service of the Table*



## ❖ CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**Unison:** 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 at 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.**

## ❖ PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Minister: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of friendship such as the ancient words that the church has used over the centuries, "The peace of Christ be with you," and the response, "And also with you."*

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Minister: The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;

People: **the world, and they that dwell therein.**

## HYMN OF GRATITUDE TO GOD

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

WINCHESTER NEW

*Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2. *Then* *cleansed* *be* *ev - 'ry* *life* *from* *sin;* *make*  
 3. We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4. *Stretch* *forth* *your* *hand,* *our* *health* *re - store,* *and*  
 5. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose



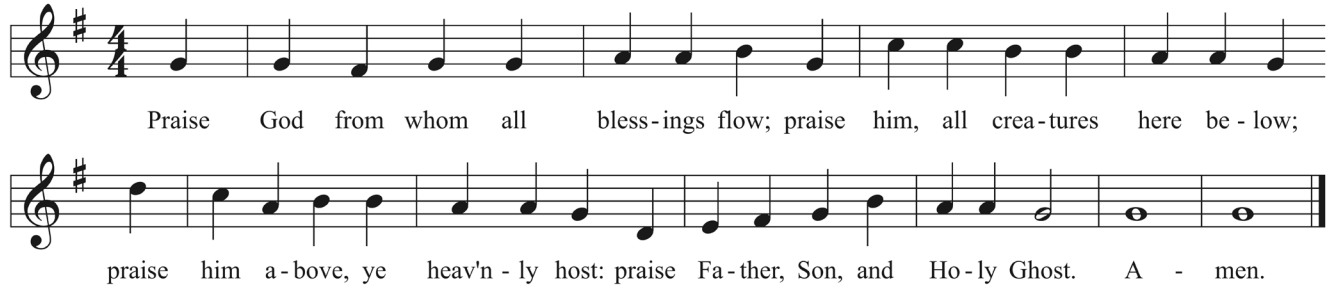
nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
*straight the way for* *God with - in,* *and let us all our*  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
*make us rise to* *fall no more;* *oh, let your face up -*  
 ad - vent has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
*hearts pre - pare for* *Christ to come and* *en - ter there.*  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
*on us shine and* *fill the world with* *love di - vine.*  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

- ❖ Minister: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

DOXOLOGY TALLIS CANON Thomas Tallis, c. 1567



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be-low;  
 praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Minister: We love you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. We present you with these gifts, which came first from your hand, as part of our sacrifice of praise. Use them, O God, for your glory and our good. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

People: Amen.

❖ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

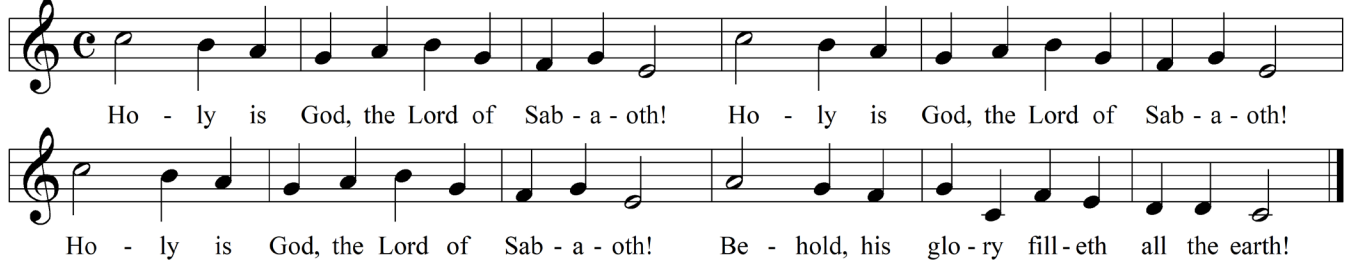
People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

People: **It is good and right to do so!**

Minister: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when he comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS JESAIA DEM PROPHETEN Martin Luther, 1483-1546



Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth! Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth!  
 Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth! Be - hold, his glo - ry fill - eth all the earth!

# INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:23-24)

John Ellerton, 1875

ARFON

Traditional Welsh melody



1. Throned up - on the aw - ful tree, King of grief, I  
2. Si - lent through those three dread hours, wres - tling with the  
3. Hark, that cry that peals a - loud up - ward through the  
4. Lord, should fear and an - guish roll dark - ly o'er my



watch with thee. Dark - ness veils thine an - guished face:  
e - vil pow'rs. Left a - lone with hu - man sin,  
whelm - ing cloud! Thou, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
sin - ful soul, thou, who once wast thus be - left



none its lines of woe can trace: none can tell what  
gloom a - round thee and with - in, till th'ap - point - ed  
thou, his own A - noint - ed One, thou dost ask him  
that thine own might ne'er be left, teach me by that



pangs un - known hold thee si - lent and a - lone.  
time is nigh, till the Lamb of God may die.  
can it be? "Why hast thou for - sak - en me?"  
bit - ter cry in the gloom to know thee nigh.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:25)

Charles Wesley, 1747

HYFRYDOL

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1855



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n, to  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it, let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown: Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest: take a - way the love of sin - ning:  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee,  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## ❖ BENEDICTION

## ❖ DEPARTING HYMN

Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

IN DIR IST FREUDE

Giovanni Gastoldi, c. 1556-c. 1622

1. My soul re - joic - es, my spir - it voic - es- Sing the  
 2. His arm now bar - ing, his strength de - clar - ing- Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud he scat - ters, their rule he

fa - vor- Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters- Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bless - ing, join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly might - y and  
 halt - ed; the meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; emp - ty, the

ho - ly- O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y- O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly shall rest se - cre - ly on all who fear him, love and re -  
 to - ken all that was spo - ken to A - br'ham's off - spring God is ful -

vere him- O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 fill - ing- O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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## LESSONS

### **Psalm 66:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Be joyful in God, all you lands;

<sup>2</sup>sing praises to the honor of his Name; make his praise to be glorious.

<sup>3</sup>Say to God, "How wonderful are your works;  
through the greatness of your power shall your enemies cower before you.

<sup>4</sup>For all the world shall worship you,  
sing to you, and praise your Name."

<sup>5</sup>O come and see the works of God,  
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.

<sup>6</sup>He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot;  
therefore in him let us rejoice.

<sup>7</sup>He rules with his power for ever; his eyes keep watch over the nations;  
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples,  
and make the voice of his praise to be heard,

<sup>9</sup>Who holds our soul in life,  
and does not allow our feet to slip.

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have proved us;  
you have tried us, as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>You brought us into the snare  
and laid trouble upon our backs.

<sup>12</sup>You allowed men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;  
but you brought us out into a place of plenty.

### **Malachi 3:1-7b**

<sup>1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>6</sup>"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

## **Philippians 1:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## **Sermon Text — Luke 3:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” <sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” <sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

# Redeemer Calendar

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

<b>Sun, Dec 8</b>	8:45 & 11:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>The Divine Service</b> , Rev. Eric Landry preaching <b>Watershed Initiative Open House</b> , Across the street from Redeemer <b>Carol Sing</b> all welcome for singing in Covenant Hall, bring cookies to share <b>Redeemer Theological Academy</b> , Room 206, contact Rev. Dr. Marcus Serven <b>Redeemer Men's Smoke 'N Choke</b> , Contact Rick Mealer <b>South Men's Breakfast</b> , Contact Steven Loomis
<b>Thu, Dec 12</b>	9:30 a.m.	
<b>Fri, Dec 13</b>	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Sat, Dec 14</b>	8:00 a.m.	

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

<b>Sun, Dec 15</b>	8:45 & 11:15 a.m.	<b>The Divine Service</b> , Rev. Eric Landry preaching
<b>Thu, Dec 19</b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>Journey of Motherhood</b> , Library, child care provided
<b>Sat, Dec 21</b>	8:00 a.m.	<b>Ladies Pray for One Another Breakfast</b> , Contact Rebecca Loomis
<b>Tues, Dec 24</b>	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Redeemer Festival of Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b> , Nursery care available <b>Redeemer Festival of Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b> , Nursery care available
<b>Wed, Dec 25</b>	—	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>
<b>Wed, Jan 1</b>	—	<b>Happy New Year!</b> , No choir rehearsal
<b>Sat, Jan 4</b>	8:00 a.m.	<b>Redeemer Men's Workout</b> , Redeemer Parking Lot
<b>Sun, Jan 12</b>	—	<b>School of Discipleship &amp; Evening at Redeemer</b> resume

### Annual Carol Sing

Tonight is the children's and youth choirs' annual Christmas carol sing! Join us at 6 p.m. in Covenant Hall. Please bring cookies to share afterwards if you feel inclined!

This year's carol sing will be themed around the 7 ancient "O Antiphons" of Advent. We hope to see you there as we meditate and rejoice this Advent season. Feel free to invite family and friends!

### Christmas Eve at Redeemer

Join us on Christmas Eve at Redeemer for our traditional service of Nine Lessons & Carols, patterned after the service of readings and music begun in 1918 at King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The lessons will include prophetic Old Testament texts and the unfolding of the Christmas narrative.

There will be a 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. service that each feature music from the Redeemer Choir and congregational carol singing. Bring the family and join us for this beautiful celebration of our Savior's incarnation! Nursery care will be available.

### Mission Spotlight: Arts on Alexander

Arts on Alexander (AoA) seeks to provide a place where community development and artistic and cultural development can grow together.

In addition to the many world-class concerts and musicians they bring each year to perform in Covenant Hall, AoA envisions building education and outreach and youth programs into its core offerings, including opportunities to engage in the culinary, literary, and visual arts. Learn more and get involved at the link below.



### Epiphany Feasts

It's time to plan for our January Epiphany Feasts, which take place in host homes across the Austin area. Watch for details to come soon, and be ready to RSVP for a gathering near you!

## PASTORS

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