

REDEEMER

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 22, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

In Preparation



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

PRELUDE

Leon Couch

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele (Soul, Adorn Thyself) — Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

Soul, adorn thyself with gladness, leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy thy praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous supper founded.
High over all the heavens he reigneth, yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

In dir ist Freude (My Soul Rejoices), BWV 615 — J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

My soul rejoices, my spirit voices, sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior has shown me favor, sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, join in confessing God,
Who is solely mighty and holy, O sing the greatness of the Lord!
His mercy surely shall rest securely on all who fear him,
Love and revere him, O sing the greatness of the Lord!

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele (Soul, Adorn Thyself), BWV 654 — J. S. Bach

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come and help us by your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by your grace and mercy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say.

❖ HYMN OF ENTRANCE

Latin, 12th cent.

VENI EMMANUEL

Plainsong, 13th cent.



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. *O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's*
3. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
4. *O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our*
5. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
Sin - ai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re -
and close the path to mis - er - y.
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.



joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Minister: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Minister: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

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

Trisagion HOLY GOD, HOLY AND MIGHTY Alexander Archangelsky, 1846-1924

Ho - - - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Minister: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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 CAROL FOR CONGREGATION

2nd cent.

GLORIA PATRI

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH

George Frideric Handel, 1742

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re-
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav-ior reigns: let men their
3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
ceive her King: let ev-'ry heart pre-pare him
songs em-ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless-ings
na-tions prove the glo-ries of his righ-teous-
room, and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
plains re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

CAROL FOR CHOIR

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree — Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

(Anonymous)

Please wait until the choir has completed the carol before turning the page.

The Service of the Word



THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalm 89



Choir: My song shall be always of the loving-kindness | of the Lord;
with my mouth will I ever be proclaiming your faithfulness, from one generation to a- | nother.
For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up for | ever;
your faithfulness shall be established in the | heavens."

All: I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn to David my | servant:
"Your seed will I establish for | ever,
and set up your throne from one generation to a- | nother."

O Lord, the heavens will praise your | wondrous works
and your faithfulness in the assembly | of the saints.
You spoke in a vision to your | saints, and said,
"I have set the crown upon one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the | people.

I have found David my | servant;
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.
My hand shall | hold him fast,
and my arm shall | strengthen him.

My faithfulness and my mercy shall | be with him,
and in my Name shall his horn be ex- | alted.
I will give him dominion ov- | er the sea,
and with his right hand shall he rule the | rivers.

He shall say to me, "You are my | Father,
my God, and the rock of my sal- | vation."
And I will make him | my firstborn,
higher than the kings | of the earth.

My mercy will I keep for him for | ever,
and my covenant shall stand | fast with him.
His seed will I make to endure for | ever
and his throne as the | days of heav'n.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
As it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

❖ OUR RESPONSE

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Latin 12th-15th cent.



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. *O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,*
 3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
 4. *O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;*
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - - - - er;
 now he shines, the long - ex - pect - - - - ed;
let no tongue on earth be si - - - - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - - ion,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

❖ **Baptism Response** (11:15 service only)

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 FRANCONIA Johann B. König, 1691-1758

1. Our chil-dren Je - sus calls to his most dear em - brace.
 2. "Let them ap - proach," he says, "nor scorn their hum - ble claim;
 3. With joy we bring them, Lord, de - vot - ing them to you,

He holds them in al - might - y arms, en - folds them in his grace.
 the heirs of heav'n are such as these; for such as these I came."
 and pray, "As you show love to us, so love our chil - dren too."

WELCOME

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

INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Ruling Elder Bret Mercer

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 1:26-38

Minister: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

❖ **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

MORNING SERMON

Rev. Eric Landry

The Mother of God

Luke 1:26-38

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

Mary's *Magnificat*

Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55

Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1965

WOODLANDS

Walter Greatorex, 1919



1. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord:
2. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his name:
3. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might:
4. Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word:



un - num - bered bless - ings give my spir - it voice;
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by;
firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

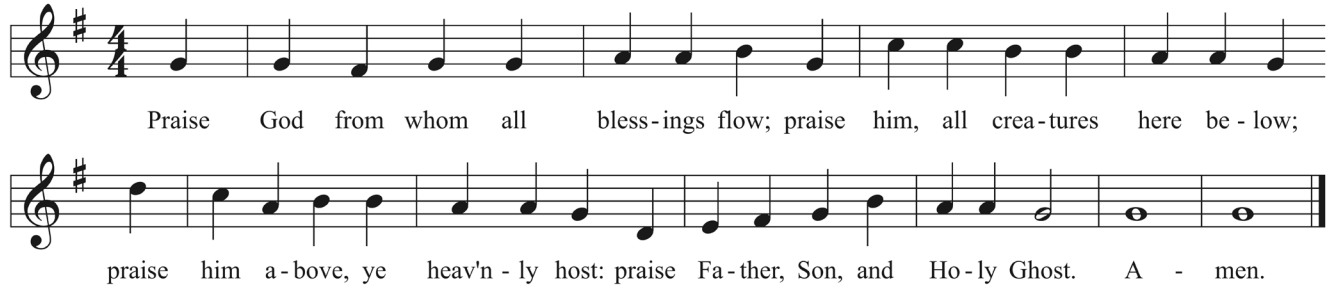


in God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - jice.
his ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more.

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- ❖ 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!

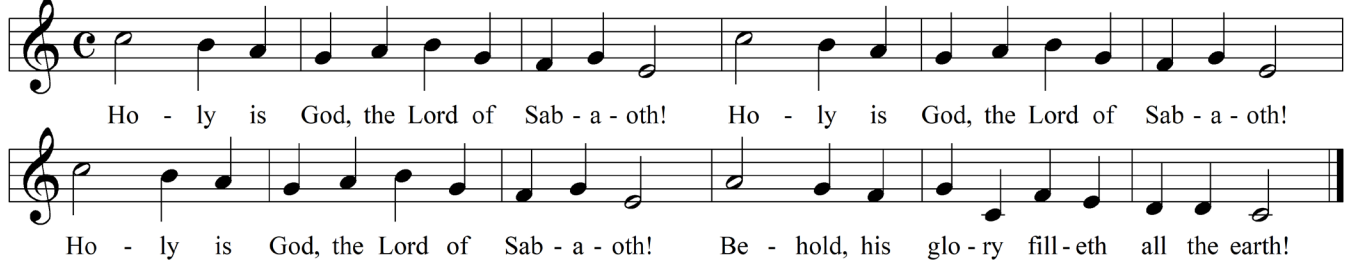
People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

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)

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

WARUM SOLLT' ICH MICH DENN GRAMEN

Johann G. Ebeling, 1666



1. All my heart this night re-joic - es as I hear far and near
2. *Forth to - day the Con - qu'ror go - eth, who the foe, sin and woe,*
3. Shall we still dread God's dis - plea - sure, who to save, free - ly gave
4. *He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth sin a - way and for aye*
5. Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, doth en - treat:



sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born," their choirs are sing - ing
death and hell, o'er - throw-eth. God is man, man to de - liv - er;
his most cher - ished Treas - ure? To re - deem us, he hath giv - en
full a - tone - ment mak - eth. For our life his own he ten - ders;
"Flee from woe and dan - ger. Breth - ren, from all ills that grieve you,



till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
his dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
his own Son from the throne of his might in heav - en.
and our race, by his grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.
you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness,
One and all, great and small;
Come with songs of gladness.
Love him who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far
Light and joy bestowing.

7. Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.
Though my breath fail in death,
Yet I shall not perish,
But with thee abide forever
There on high, in that joy
Which can vanish never.

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)

Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.

PICARDY

French melody, 17th cent.



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - wing - ed ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to earth de -
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of hell may
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - - - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - - - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - - - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - - - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

❖ 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

bles - 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 - cure - 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 85

- ¹My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord;
with my mouth will I ever be proclaiming your faithfulness, from one generation to another.
- ²For I have said, “Mercy shall be built up for ever;
your faithfulness shall be established in the heavens.”
- ³I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
- ⁴“Your seed will I establish forever,
and set up your throne from one generation to another.”
- ⁵O Lord, the heavens will praise your wondrous works
and your faithfulness in the assembly of the saints.
- ¹⁹You spoke in a vision to your saints, and said,
“I have set the crown upon one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- ²⁰I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- ²¹My hand shall hold him fast,
and my arm shall strengthen him.
- ²⁴My faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him,
and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.
- ²⁵I will give him dominion over the sea,
and with his right hand shall he rule the rivers.
- ²⁶He shall say to me, “You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.”
- ²⁷And I will make him my firstborn,
higher than the kings of the earth.
- ²⁸My mercy will I keep for him forever,
and my covenant shall stand fast with him.
- ²⁹His seed will I make to endure forever
and his throne as the days of heav’n.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’” ¹⁷In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Sermon Text — Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Redeemer Calendar

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sun, Dec 22	8:45 & 11:15 a.m.	The Divine Service , Rev. Eric Landry preaching
Tue, Dec 24	4:00 p.m.	Redeemer Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols , Nursery care available
	6:00 p.m.	Redeemer Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols , Nursery care available
Wed, Dec 25	—	Merry Christmas!

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sun, Dec 29	8:45 & 11:15 a.m.	The Divine Service , Rev. Danny Morgan preaching
Wed, Jan 1	—	Happy New Year! , No choir rehearsal
Sat, Jan 4	8:00 a.m.	Redeemer Men's Workout , Redeemer Parking Lot
Mon, Jan 6	—	Epiphany Feasts Begin , see below
Wed, Jan 8	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal , Covenant Hall
Thu, Jan 9	9:30 a.m.	Redeemer Theological Academy , Contact Marcus Serven
Sat, Jan 11	8:00 a.m.	South Men's Breakfast , Contact Steven Loomis
Sun, Jan 12	—	School of Discipleship & Evening at Redeemer resume
Thu, Jan 16	10:00 a.m.	Journey of Motherhood , Library, child care provided
Fri, Jan 17	7:30 p.m.	AoA Presents: Holbrook Organ Series , artsonalexander.org

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.



Redeemer Theological Academy

Redeemer Theological Academy will resume on January 9 and will continue the course "History of the Early Church", taught by Pastor Marcus Serven. We will also be offering a Tuesday evening course starting January 14 which will cover "The New Testament Scripture" taught by Max Smith.

Contact Marcus Serven for questions and more information: mserve@redeemerpres.org

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.

Epiphany Feasts

It's time to plan for our January Epiphany Feasts, which take place in host homes across the Austin area. Scan the link below to view the upcoming feasts and to RSVP with your hosts!



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