

Redeemer
Presbyterian Church
exists to see our city
renewed by the gospel
of Jesus Christ.

*Love God
Love People
Love Tyler*

The Order of Celebration and Worship of God



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Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all
who struggle and desire victory; to all who
sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers
and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst
after righteousness; and to all who will
come—this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the
Lord Jesus Christ.*

Welcome to Redeemer!

We are thankful you are with us today and pray you will find this church a place of vibrant worship, authentic community, and love for God and neighbor.

Our gatherings focus on the Triune God— Father, Son, and Spirit— and his redeeming work in our world. We will pray to him, sing his praises, hear his word taught, and participate in Holy Communion.

Our worship is a blend of ancient and modern, seeking to benefit from the Lord’s work in his Church throughout time. We invite you to join right in, even if this is new to you, and walk these well-worn paths with us!

We love when whole families are able to participate, but we do have trained and screened volunteers available in Redeemer Kids for those who need it (ages 5 and under).

If you wish to connect with us, please fill out the section below and place it in the offering basket.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

- Please contact me regarding:
- ☐ Learning more about Redeemer
 - ☐ Receiving email updates from the church
 - ☐ Exploring Christianity and questions about faith
 - ☐ Getting involved with a community group

I would like prayer about: _____

Other questions or comments: _____

Instructions for Online Tithing:

We offer online and mobile giving options. Our desire is to make the giving process as simple as possible! Please follow the instructions below to get started:

For Online Giving:

1. Go to redeemertyler.com and click “Give Online” in the upper right corner.
2. This will take you to our Church Center page where you click “Give” in the upper right corner.
3. Fill out the amount you wish to give and other requested information.
4. You will have the option to create an account and set up recurring donations via their secure site.

For Mobile Giving:

1. Download the “Church Center App” on your smart phone.
2. Open the app and create a user account.
3. Fill out the amount you wish to give and other requested information.
4. You will be able to set up recurring donations if you prefer.



Announcements

Christmas Eve Service :

We will be having our annual Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm this evening. Please join us! Remember, this is a great service to invite family and friends to!

Newcomers Dinner:

This meal is open to those that are new to the church, want to know more about Redeemer, and/or are interested in joining. It will be a relaxed time around the table getting to know Ben and a few more members a little bit better. This will be a child-free event on January 27 at 6:00 pm at the Gilmores' (3537 Wynnwood Dr, Tyler). If you'd like to attend, email Chris Gilmore (chris_gilmore@zoho.com).

Sunday Morning and Mid-Week Prayer Meetings:

We now have two weekly opportunities for prayer: Sunday mornings before service at 9:30 am and every Wednesday from 11:00 am-11:30 am at Ben Wheeler's house (3314 Pollard Drive Tyler, TX). Please join us!

Small Group Meetings:

Small groups are an important part of our ministry at Redeemer. They offer opportunities to deepen relationships and to love, serve, and pray for one another and our city. If you are interested in joining a group, please email Ben Wheeler: ben@redeemertyler.com.

Bible and Book Studies:

- Men's study meets 7:00 am on Fridays. They are studying Esther. Contact Konrad Kern (714-658-4972) for information.
- The women's group is studying 1 Corinthians on Friday mornings. Contact Patti Babin (361-215-0065) for information.

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Call To Worship

Leader: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

People: *In the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

Leader: Great are the works of the LORD,

People: *Studied by all who delight in them.*

Leader: Full of splendor and majesty is his work,

People: *And his righteousness endures forever.*

—Psalm 111.1-3

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life." We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (Isaiah 9:2)

And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. (Isaiah 42.16)

The LORD says to His servant: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49.6)

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58:8)

People: *Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation. Let us walk in the light of the Lord*

Opening Hymn | O Come All Ye Faithful

By John Francis Wade (1751)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

All Singing: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Leader: Praise the Lord!
People: The Name of the Lord be praised!

Hymn of Worship | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley (1739); Music by Felix Mendelssohn (1840)

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

One More Hymn and the Offering | Joy to the World

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719, Music by Lowell Mason, 1848

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love!

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 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— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!

People: Amen!

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
People: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*
Leader: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.
People: *Therefore, let us keep the feast.*
Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Feast

We serve both red wine and white grape juice.
Gluten free bread is available on the serving tray.

Communion Hymn | Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

Words by Reginald Heber (1811), music by William Walker (1820)

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Hail the blest morn, see the great mediator Down from the regions of glory descend.
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger Lo, for His guard the bright angels attend*

*Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch, and Saviour of all.*

(Chorus)

*Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, Odors of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forests or gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration, Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

(Chorus)

*Low at his feet we in humble prostration, Lose all our sorrow and trouble and strife;
There we receive his divine consolation, Flowing afresh from the fountain of life.*

*He is our friend in the midst of temptation, Faithful supporter, whose love cannot fail;
Rock of our refuge, and hope of salvation, Light to direct us through death's gloomy vail.*

(Chorus)

Concluding Prayer

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

—1 Peter 1.3-5

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*
Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Old Testament Reading | 2 Samuel 7.1-11; 16

[1] Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, [2] the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” [3] And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

[4] But 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? [6] I 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. [7] In 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?”’ [8] Now, 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. [9] And 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. [10] And 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, [11] from 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. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Hymn of Worship | Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Medieval Latin carol, German melody, 14th century

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav’n before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

—continued—

The Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
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.”

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.
People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*
Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts!
People: *We lift them up to the Lord!*
Leader: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God!
People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise!*
Leader: 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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:
People: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Confession of Faith

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 Spirit, 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of the People, Concluded with 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.

—This is a great time for parents to go pick up their children from Redeemer Kids for communion.

*The term “catholic” here means “universal”, not the Roman Catholic Church. It refers to all believers, everywhere and at all times— the whole company of God’s redeemed people through the ages.

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Psalm | Psalm 89.1-4; 19-26

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
People: *With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.*
Leader: For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
People: *In the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”*
Leader: You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
People: *I have sworn to David my servant:*
Leader: ‘I will establish your offspring forever,
People: *And build your throne for all generations.”*
Leader: Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
People: *“I have granted help to one who is mighty;*
Leader: I have exalted one chosen from the people.
People: *I have found David, my servant;*
Leader: With my holy oil I have anointed him,
People: *So that my hand shall be established with him;*
Leader: My arm also shall strengthen him.
People: *The enemy shall not outwit him;*
Leader: The wicked shall not humble him.
People: *I will crush his foes before him*
Leader: And strike down those who hate him.
People: *My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,*
Leader: And in my name shall his horn be exalted.
People: *I will set his hand on the sea*
Leader: And his right hand on the rivers.
People: *He shall cry to me,*
Leader: ‘You are my Father,
People: *My God, and the Rock of my salvation.’*

—Parents may take children to Redeemer Kids at this time (nursery: up to 4; worship training: 5 to 2nd grade).

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Luke 2.1-20

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

[8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10] And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

[14] “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

[15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” [16] And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. [17] And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. [18] And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19] But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.