



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

**Ben Wheeler, Pastor** 903-805-1809, ben@redeemertyler.com  
**John Orbaugh, Ruling Elder** 903-780-6212, john.orbaugh@suddenlink.net  
**Robert Hale, Ruling Elder** 305-562-5502, robert\_hale@wycliffe.org  
**Kent Travis, Ruling Elder** 903-504-9255, mkenttravis@gmail.com  
**Redeemer Presbyterian Church, PCA**

P.O. Box 132191  
Tyler, TX 75713  
Office: 121 South Broadway, Suite 728  
www.redeemertyler.com



*First Sunday of Advent*  
**December 3, 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.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer Suggestions:

Topic: our church and mission, deacons

- Monday  
That God would prepare us to be his ambassadors, welcoming to those who visit and reaching out to friends and neighbors and those in need; for healthy marriages and families.
- Tuesday  
For our deacons: Chris, Jeff and Jeremy. Wisdom for them as they get set up and seek to help us use our gifts in service to our church and community.
- Wednesday  
For authentic community, healthy small groups, deep friendships.
- Thursday  
Physical and material needs of the body; that we would see opportunities to love and serve the destitute, ill, imprisoned, orphaned, and widowed.
- Friday  
That we would grow in prayer; for God to bless our corporate worship.
- Saturday  
Sabbath rest. Discernment, perspective, faith, and contentment.

# Announcements

## October Financial Update:

	Budget	Actual
Income	\$18,375	\$21,375
Expenses	\$22,146	\$23,464
Difference		-\$2,408

## 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 Gilmore's (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@redeemert Tyler.com.

## Bible and Book Studies:

- Men's study meets over breakfast, 7:00 am on Fridays. They are studying Esther.
- 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:** Bless the LORD, O my soul,

**People:** *And forget not all his benefits,*

**Leader:** Who forgives all your iniquity,

**People:** *Who heals all your diseases,*

**Leader:** Who redeems your life from the pit,

**People:** *Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*

**Leader:** Who satisfies you with good

**People:** *So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

—Psalm 103.2-5

### 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)

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

### Opening Hymn | O Come, Messiah, Come

Words by Isaac Wardell, Music by Isaac Wardell, Mason Neely and Alex Foote (2009)

*Oh come, oh come Messiah*

*Oh come our Alleluia*

*Oh sing, oh sing Hosanna*

*Oh come, Messiah, come!*

*Comfort and joy, Alpha, Omega, He*

*Sorrow and toil, no longer rulers be.*

*(Repeat)*

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

**Leader:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**All Singing:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Leader:** Praise the Lord!

**People:** The Name of the Lord be praised!

## Hymn of Worship | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Words by Charles Wesley (1747), music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1855)

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

## One More Hymn and the Offering | Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Traditional German carol, pub.1599 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to men a Savior,  
When half spent was the night*

*This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.*

## Benediction & Dismissal

**Leader:** Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

**People:** Amen!

—Ephesians 6.23-24

**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 | Come Light Our Hearts

*Words and music by Sandra McCracken (2015)*

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait*

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait*

*Truly our hope is in You*

*Truly our hope is in You*

*O Lord of life, our only hope*

*Your radiance shines*

*On all who look -- to You in the dark*

*Emmanuel come, come light our hearts*

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait*

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait*

*Truly our hope is in You*

*Truly our hope is in You*

*O Joy above all other loves*

*In you we find more than enough*

*We come as we are, O heal and restore*

*Come light our hearts*

## Concluding Prayer

## Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

*Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth. But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be. We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want. Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your unspeakable majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

**Leader:** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

—Ephesians 2.13-16

**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 | Isaiah 64.1-9

[1] Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence—

[2] as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

[3] When you did awesome things that we did not look for,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

[4] From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

[5] You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,  
those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

[6] We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

[7] There is no one who calls upon your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

[8] But now, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

[9] Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,  
and remember not iniquity forever.  
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

## Hymn of Worship | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Words by John Mason Neale, 1851*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.*

*(Refrain)*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## 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 Nicene 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.

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)*

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind, All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace! (Refrain)*

## Psalm | Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18

**Leader:** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

**People:** *You who lead Joseph like a flock.*

**Leader:** You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**People:** *Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,*

**Leader:** Stir up your might

**People:** *And come to save us!*

**Leader:** Restore us, O God;

**People:** *Let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

**Leader:** O LORD God of hosts,

**People:** *How long will you be angry with your people's prayers?*

**Leader:** You have fed them with the bread of tears

**People:** *And given them tears to drink in full measure.*

**Leader:** You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

**People:** *And our enemies laugh among themselves.*

**Leader:** Restore us, O God of hosts;

**People:** *Let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

**Leader:** They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;

**People:** *May they perish at the rebuke of your face!*

**Leader:** But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,

**People:** *The son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!*

**Leader:** Then we shall not turn back from you;

**People:** *Give us life, and we will call upon your name!*

\*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.

—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 1.1-25

[1] Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, [2] just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, [3] it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, [4] that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

[5] In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. [6] And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. [7] But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

[8] Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, [9] according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. [10] And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. [11] And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. [12] And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. [13] But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. [14] And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, [15] for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. [16] And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, [17] and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

[18] And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." [19] And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. [20] And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." [21] And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. [22] And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. [23] And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

[24] After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, [25] "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."