



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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Redeemer Presbyterian Church, PCA

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Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022

*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: _____

Prayer Topic: global and local missions

- Monday
Richey and Keli Goodrich (India): for Richey's preaching and teaching; for all paperwork and citizenship issues to be worked out so they can return to the field; for the Spirit to draw to Christ many of the unreached Jat people living in India— only 0.02% of these 9 million people are Christian.
- Tuesday
Robert and Debbie Hale: translation work in French-speaking Africa.
- Wednesday
Nate Hill, John Tyler High School Young Life; Mentoring Alliance (includes Mentoring Alliance Summer Camps, Mentoring Alliance After School, & Mentor Connect)
- Thursday
Rev. Robbie Mills, Pastor of New City Fellowship, a church working among immigrants in East Dallas. Rev. Jahaziel Cantu, Pastor of El Buen Pastor, a Hispanic church plant in Richardson. Rev. Caleb Dunn with Cristo Rey PCA, a Hispanic church in Dallas.
- Friday
Promise Academy's financial and prayer support; Highway 80 Rescue Mission; PATH; Crisis Pregnancy Center.
- Saturday
Pray that unity will grow among the churches in our city so we may care for people, evangelize, and make disciples.

Announcements

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 pm and Christmas Day service will be at 10:30. We hope to see you there!

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 at ben@redeemert Tyler.com.

Bible and Book Studies:

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

CCLI # 11299454

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Call To Worship

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

People: *Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

Leader: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,

People: *Humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

—Zechariah 9.9

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 | It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Words by Edmund H. Sears (1849); Music by Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1874)

*It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.*

O tidings of comfort and joy.

-continued-

Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing!

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:

Oh come, oh come Messiah
Oh come our Alleluia
Oh sing, oh sing Hosanna
Oh come, Messiah, come!

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: The Name of the Lord be praised!

Hymn of Worship | God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

English carol, 18th century

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

-continued-

One More Hymn and the Offering | Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Words and Music by Jered McKenna (2013)

Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of God is on you.
Arise, see, when the earth grows dark that the Lord will arise upon you.
The Lord will arise upon you!

Nations will come to your light, lift up your eyes and see.
We'll gather together and come to you,
And your love will be all that we know.
Your love will be all that we know.

Arise, come, to the open gates for the Father is welcoming you.
Fear not, for the Lord brings peace and redemption to all who believe,
Redemption to all who believe.

The sun will not shine cause you'll be all the light that we need,
and violence will end, all the wars that we wage will cease.
The sun will not shine cause you'll be all the light that we need,
and violence will end, all the wars that we wage will cease.

We will glorify your name,
We will glorify your name!

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

People: Amen!

—Psalm 27:14

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

*From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name.*

*"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."*

*The shepherds at these tidings, rejoiced in heart and mind,
And on the darkened hillside they left their flocks behind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway this holy child to find:*

*And when to Bethlehem they came where Christ the infant lay;
they found him in a manger where oxen fed on hay,
and there beside her newborn child his mother knelt to pray:*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all people in this place!
With Christian love and fellowship each other now embrace,
and let this Christmas festival all bitterness displace:*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Righteous Father, we who own more than we use, proclaim more than we experience, and request more than we need, come asking your forgiveness. We seek your salvation, then act like we save ourselves. We beg your forgiveness, then repeat our errors. We experience your grace, then act defeated. We rely on your power, but only in hard times. We have become confused and misguided. Forgive our every defection. Bring us to an unbroken commitment and a steady trust, through Jesus Christ, who is the way of hope, the truth of God, and the life of love, now and always. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: *O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.*

*Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

People: *Thanks be to God!*

—Psalm 22.2-5

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 7.10-17

[10] Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: [11] “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” [12] But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” [13] And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. [15] He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. [16] For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. [17] The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Hymn of Worship | I Wonder As I Wander

Traditional Appalachian carol

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

*When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King*

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

Leader: What do you understand by the providence of God?

People: *God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.*

Leader: What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

People: *We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.*

Leader: Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour?

People: *Because He saves us from all our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.*

—Question and Answer 27-29, Heidelberg Catechism

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 for communion.

Psalm | Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

People: *Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!*

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

People: *O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?*

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

People: *You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.*

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

People: *They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!*

Leader: But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

People: *Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!*

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

Sermon Text | John 16.4b-24

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. [5] But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' [6] But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. [7] Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. [8] And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [10] concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; [11] concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

[12] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13] When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. [14] He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

[16] "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."
[17] So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" [18] So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." [19] Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? [20] Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. [21] When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. [22] So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. [23] In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. [24] Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.