



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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First Sunday After Christmas
December 31, 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

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 the Minor Prophets. 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: Blessed be the name of the LORD

People: *From this time forth and forevermore!*

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: *The name of the LORD is to be praised!*

—Psalm 113.2-3

Opening Hymn | Angels From the Realms of Glory

Words and music by James Montgomery (1816)

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:*

*Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:*

*All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 | What Child Is This

Words by W. Chatterton Dix

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through:
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the son of Mary.*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the son of Mary.*

One More Hymn and the Offering | Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Spiritual, adapted by John Wesley Work, Jr.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: *Amen!*

—Numbers 6.24-26

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 | Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

17th Century French Carol, Words by Gerald Moultrie, 1864

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

Concluding Prayer

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name, Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

—Colossians 1.13-17

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 61.10-62.3

[10] I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
[11] For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.
[1] For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
[2] The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
[3] You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hymn of Worship | Once in Royal David's City

Words by Cecil Frances Alexander (1848), music by Henry J. Gauntlett (1849)

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
There God's children rather round, bright like stars with glory crowed.*

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 one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds. God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

Psalm | Psalm 147.12-20

Leader: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

People: Praise your God, O Zion!

Leader: For he strengthens the bars of your gates;

People: He blesses your children within you.

Leader: He makes peace in your borders;

People: He fills you with the finest of the wheat.

Leader: He sends out his command to the earth;

People: His word runs swiftly.

Leader: He gives snow like wool;

People: He scatters frost like ashes.

Leader: He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;

People: Who can stand before his cold?

Leader: He sends out his word, and melts them;

People: He makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

Leader: He declares his word to Jacob,

People: His statutes and rules to Israel.

Leader: He has not dealt thus with any other nation;

People: They do not know his rules. Praise the LORD!

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

*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.

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Luke 2.21-40

[21] And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

[22] And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord [23] (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") [24] and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." [25] Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26] And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. [27] And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, [28] he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

[29] "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
[30] for my eyes have seen your salvation
[31] that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
[32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

[33] And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. [34] And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed [35] (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

[36] And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, [37] and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. [38] And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

[39] And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. [40] And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.