



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

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.

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward those he favors.

People: *For unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Leader: We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you,

People: *We give thanks unto you for this greatest of your mercies,*

Leader: O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

People: *O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.*

Leader: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who was made human to take away the sins of the world,

People: *Have mercy upon us and turn us from our iniquities.*

Leader: You who were made manifest to destroy the works of the devil,

People: *Have mercy upon us and enable us to renounce and forsake them.*

Leader: You who are the great advocate with the Father,

People: *Receive our prayer. Amen.*

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: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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 | 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;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.*

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too!

In Christ we receive the salvation of our God.

People: *Glory to God in the highest!*

—based on Isaiah 52:9-10; Luke 2:14, NRSV

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.

Parents may take children 3-5 (pre-Kindergarten) to Redeemer Kids at this time.

New Testament Reading | Ephesians 1:3–23

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

[11] In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, [12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. [13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the

gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[15] For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, [18] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might [20] that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 here lullaby:
 Joy, joy for Christ is born,
 The Babe, the son of Mary.*

Psalm | Psalm 84.1-8

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

People: *My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

People: *At your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.*

Leader: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,

People: *Ever singing your praise! Selah*

Leader: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

People: *In whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

Leader: As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;

People: *The early rain also covers it with pools.*

Leader: They go from strength to strength;

People: *Each one appears before God in Zion.*

Leader: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;

People: *Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah*

Ministry of the Word | Honor

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | Exodus 20:1–21

[1] And God spoke all these words, saying, [2] "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

[3] "You shall have no other gods before me.

[4] "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. [5] You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

[7] "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

[8] "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. [9] Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. [11] For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

[12] "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

[13] "You shall not murder.

[14] "You shall not commit adultery.

[15] "You shall not steal.

[16] "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

[17] "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

[18] Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off [19] and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." [20] Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." [21] The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his 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; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

This is a great time for parents to go pick up their children for communion.

The Holy Communion

(For those watching at home, I encourage you to take this time to watch and pray with us. Remember this all along: Jesus is not more present with us who are gathered than he is with you at home! The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of his blessing to us, and a great gift, but it does not mean you are missing out on his presence or his blessing. We all participate by faith in Christ whether physically receiving the Supper or not.)

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

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

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 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 veil.*

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | He Came Down

A traditional song from Cameroon, transcribed by John L. Bell (1986)

He came down that we may have love;

*He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: God and Father of Jesus, you have sent your Son to be our Savior:
our light in the midst of darkness, our hope in the face of threats, our peace amid turmoil.
In your Word and sacrament we have seen him and know that your promises are true.
Send us forth from this assembly to live in hope and peace,
until we gather again at his table.
This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord.
People: *Amen!*

CCLI # 11299454

Announcements

Redeemer Membership Class:

This class is for anyone interested in learning more about our church, what we believe, and how we hope to function as a community in Tyler. We will meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 for four weeks beginning January 10. Please email Ben if you plan to attend: Ben@redeemertyler.com.

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.

Monthly Youth Meeting:

All junior high and high school students are invited to join us on the third Sunday of the month for a time of fellowship, dinner, and Bible Study.

Bible and Book Studies:

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

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic: our pastor and elders (Ben, Robert, John, & JB):

- Monday
Spiritual health and protection, relationships with spouse and children
- Tuesday
Integrity, emotional strength, communication skill
- Wednesday
Faith, finances, friendships
- Thursday
For their spouses (Rachel, Debbie, Brenda, & Allison), vision, and unity
- Friday
Passion for ministry, Sabbath rest, discernment
- Saturday
Perspective, faith, contentment.