



## The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

*Third Sunday in Advent*

December 13, 2020

*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:** Our souls magnify the Lord!

**People:** *Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!*

**Leader:** The mighty One has done great things for us!

**People:** *Holy is God's name!*

**Leader:** Let us worship God.

**People:** *For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;  
from generation to generation God gives mercy.*

—based on Luke 1.46-50

#### Lighting of the Advent Candles

**Reader:** We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God." *(Isaiah 40.3)*

The Lord will give you a sign.

A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.  
"And they shall name him Immanuel,  
which means "God is with us." *(Isaiah 7.14; Matthew 1.23)*

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low;

"the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain." *(Isaiah 40.4)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

**People:** *Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

#### Opening 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!*

### **Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

**Leader:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

**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 | Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

*By Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker, 2013*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.  
He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man.  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.*

## **Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**People:** *While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever,  
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.  
Forgive us Lord,  
for not bending the knee,  
for not reading your Word,  
for not searching our hearts,  
for not facing our sins.  
Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!  
Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,  
we may have a fresh sense of your presence  
and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

**Leader:** The good news of this Advent season  
is forgiveness of sin and new life.  
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.  
Thanks be to the Advent God,  
who comes among us,  
setting us free to love and serve.

**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.

## **New Testament Reading | I Thessalonians 5.16-24**

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. [19] Do not quench the Spirit. [20] Do not despise prophecies, [21] but test everything; hold fast what is good. [22] Abstain from every form of evil.

[23] Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

## **Hymn of Worship | Come Then, Lord Jesus**

*Words by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), Music by Katy Bowser and Kenny Hutson (2007)*

*The Church has waited long, her absent Lord to see  
And still in loneliness she waits, a friendless stranger she  
Age after age has gone, sun after sun has set*

*And still, in weeds of widowhood, she weeps a mourner yet*

*Come then, Lord Jesus, come  
Come then, Lord Jesus  
Come then, Lord Jesus, come  
Come, come, come.*

*The serpent's brood increase, the powers of hell grow bold  
The conflict thickens, faith is low, and love is waxing cold  
How long, O Lord our God, holy and true and good  
Wilt thou not judge Thy suffering Church, her sighs and tears and blood?*

*We long to hear thy voice, to see Thee face to face  
To share Thy crown and glory then, as now we share thy grace  
Should not the loving bride, the absent Bridegroom mourn?  
Should she not wear the weeds of grief, until her Lord return?*

*The whole creation groans, and wait to hear that voice  
That shall restore her comeliness, and make her wastes rejoice  
Come, Lord, and wipe away, the curse, the sin, the stain  
And make this blighted world of ours, thine own fair world again*

## **Psalm | Psalm 126**

**Leader:** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

**People:** *We were like those who dream.*

**Leader:** Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

**People:** *And our tongue with shouts of joy;*

**Leader:** Then they said among the nations,

**People:** *"The LORD has done great things for them."*

**Leader:** The LORD has done great things for us;

**People:** *We are glad.*

**Leader:** Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

**People:** *Like streams in the Negeb!*

**Leader:** Those who sow in tears

**People:** *Shall reap with shouts of joy!*

**Leader:** He who goes out weeping,

**People:** *Bearing the seed for sowing,*

**Leader:** Shall come home with shouts of joy,

**People:** *Bringing his sheaves with him.*

**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**

Our only hope is Jesus Christ.  
After we refused to live in the image of God,  
he was born of the virgin Mary,  
sharing our genes and our instincts,  
entering our culture, speaking our language,  
fulfilling the law of God.  
Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in him.  
Come, Lord Jesus:  
We are open to your Spirit.  
We await your full presence.  
Our world finds rest in you alone.

—*Our Song of Hope, st. 3, closing prayer*

## **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.*

## **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 | 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*

*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*

## **Concluding Prayer**

### **One More Hymn and the Offering | Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come (The 3rd Song of Isaiah, Isaiah 60:1-19)**

*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!*

*(Chorus)*

*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.*

*(Chorus)*

*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!*

*(Chorus)*

## **Benediction & Dismissal**

**Leader:** May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body  
be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful,  
and he will do this.

**People:** *Amen!*

— I Thessalonians 5.23-24

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# Announcements

## Christmas Eve Worship:

We will be having our annual candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm at OneRealtor Center. This is a great time to gather as God's people and reflect upon his great grace to 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](mailto: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.