



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 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: The Lord has done great things for us!

People: *And we are filled with joy!*

Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

People: *Our tears into songs of joy!*

Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

People: *And remain in us forever.*

—Based on Psalm 126

Opening Hymn | O Come All Ye Faithful

By John Francis Wade (1751)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

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 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 | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley (1739); Music by Felix Mendelssohn (1840)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.*

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: Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

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 | Galatians 3:23-4:7

[23] Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. [24] So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. [25] But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, [26] for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. [27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

[1] I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, [2] but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. [3] In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. [4] But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" [7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Hymn of Worship | Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Medieval Latin carol, German melody, 14th century

*Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Psalm | Psalm 147

Leader: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

People: *For it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.*

Leader: The LORD builds up Jerusalem;

People: *He gathers the outcasts of Israel.*

Leader: He heals the brokenhearted

People: *And binds up their wounds.*

Leader: He determines the number of the stars;

People: *He gives to all of them their names.*

Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

People: *His understanding is beyond measure.*

Leader: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: *He casts the wicked to the ground.*

Leader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

People: *Make melody to our God on the lyre!*

Leader: He covers the heavens with clouds;

People: *He prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills.*

Leader: He gives to the beasts their food,

People: *And to the young ravens that cry.*

Leader: His delight is not in the strength of the horse,

People: *Nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,*

Leader: But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
People: *In those who hope in his steadfast love.*
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!

Sermon Text | Hebrews 8

[1] Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, [2] a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. [3] For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. [4] Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. [5] They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." [6] But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. [7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

[8] For he finds fault with them when he says:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah,
[9] not like the covenant that I made with their fathers
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.
For they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.
[10] For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
[11] And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor
and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.
[12] For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more."

[13] In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

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 vail.*

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | Joy to the World

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719, Music by Lowell Mason, 1848

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!*

*Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,*

Far as, far as the curse is found.

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love!*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: Grace to you and peace

from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

People: *Amen!*

—Revelation 1.4-6

CCLI # 11299454

Announcements

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: global and local missions

- Monday
Richey and Keli Goodrich (India): for Richey's preaching and teaching;
for gospel awakening to occur among the 10 million unreached Ansari people of India.

- Tuesday
Robert and Debbie Hale: translation work in French-speaking Africa.
- Wednesday
Nate Hill, John Tyler High School Young Life; Mentoring Alliance (includes The Gospel Village, Rose City Summer Camps, and The Boys and Girls Club).
- 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 and their work to build a residential facility here in Tyler; PATH, Crisis Pregnancy Center, other ministries in town.
- Saturday
Pray that unity will grow among the churches in our city so we may care for people, evangelize, and make disciples.