



Redeemer

PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcome to Redeemer!

A NOTE TO VISITORS

We want to welcome you to the church! Please stop by the welcome table in the north entrance so we can introduce ourselves to you.

Text **RPCinfo** to **55498** to fill out a visitor card and/or receive more information about Redeemer! Paper visitor cards are also available in your seats and at both entrances.

Bibles are available in each seating area for your use during the service.

Guest WiFi Network: Redeemer Guest

Password: WorshipGodServeTemple

A NOTE TO PARENTS

We believe, because of the promises of God, that our children are as much a part of the church as everyone else. Therefore, we desire that they would participate in worship along with their families as much as they are able.

We completely understand that kids can get noisy and squirmy during corporate worship. Parents have all experienced the blessed struggle of training our children to participate in worship. We understand the challenges of getting children accustomed to being in the service the whole time and want to assist you in helping your children learn to participate in a meaningful way. Children of all ages are always welcome in the worship service.

Nurseries | Available during the worship service for infants and toddlers ages 2 months to 3 years. Nurseries are located in the northeast corner of the building.

Children's Worship | Available every Sunday during the sermon. Children age 4 through the end of kindergarten may attend *Training in the Pews* children's worship.

Nursing Mom's Room | Located near the west entrance

We'd love to get to know you!
Text **RPCinfo** to **55498**

.....
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
is a missional *community*
moved by the *grace*
of the *Redeemer*, Jesus Christ,
to *worship* and *know* God
and to *love* and *serve* our *neighbors*
in *Temple* and *beyond*.
.....

As you find your seat, please
move toward the center of your
section, leaving the aisle seats
for those coming in after you.

Thank you.



Redeemer Presbyterian Church is affiliated with
the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023 | 10:00 am

*In consideration
of other
worshippers,
please program
all mobile
phones and
electronic
devices to silent
or vibrate mode
for the duration
of the service.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Dr. David Joffrion

MEDITATION AND PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“. . . too often we look for the Spirit in the extraordinary when God has promised to be present in the ordinary. We look for God in the fresh and novel, as if his grace were always an “event,” when he has promised that his Spirit faithfully attends the ordinary means of grace—in the Word, at the Table. We keep looking for God in the new, as if grace were always bound up with “the next best thing,” but Jesus encouraged us to look for God in a simple, regular meal.”

—James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love* (p. 67)

SCRIPTURE FOR MEMORIZATION

1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

ADVENT CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS	Hopeful waiting. Expectancy. Longing. Things are not right within us nor in the world around us, so we wait. We wait for the arrival of King Jesus. The word “advent” comes from the Latin word <i>adventus</i> , meaning “coming” or “arrival.” During Advent we remember the first coming of Jesus and we long for his second coming. Robert Webber explains Advent as, “a corporate spiritual journey that calls for expectant waiting and readiness for the coming of the Christ. When the Church travels this journey and treats it as a discipline of life and prayer, the joy of Christmas is immeasurably intensified.”
EPIPHANY	
LENT	
EASTER	
PENTECOST	

God's Supremacy

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Ken Smith

The call to worship establishes the lines of communication in worship. God always comes to us before we come to God. Biblical worship is a response to God's gracious revelation of himself to his people.

Revelation 15:3-4

Leader: "And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

**All: "Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.""**

*Bold text is read together by the congregation.
Plain text is read by the leader.
Responsive readings remind us that during corporate worship God speaks to his people and we respond together as a community.*

God's Supremacy

SONG OF ADORATION

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Coronation

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all.

3. Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

4. O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.

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Stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787
Music: Oliver Holden, 1793
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God's Supremacy

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dr. Ken Smith

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. JB Wilbanks

Westminster Larger Catechism #36

Minister: Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?

**All: The only Mediator of the covenant of grace
is the Lord Jesus Christ,
who, being the eternal Son of God,
of one substance and equal with the Father,
in the fullness of time became man,
and so was and continues to be God and man,
in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

God's Supremacy

DOXOLOGY

Angels from the Realms of Glory, verse 2

Regent Square

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Please be seated.

The Law of God invites us to confession of sin within the context of our covenant relationship with God, a relationship in which honesty about our sin is welcome and safe. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

THE LAW OF GOD

Mr. Doug Smith

Westminster Shorter Catechism #63, 64, 65, 66, 82

Leader: What is the fifth commandment?

All: The fifth commandment is, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”

Leader: What is required in the fifth commandment?

All: The fifth commandment requires that we preserve the honor and perform the duties appropriate to everyone in their various places and relations, whether in authority over us, under our authority, or equals.

Leader: What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

All: The fifth commandment forbids the neglect of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty that belongs to everyone in their various places and relations to us.

Leader: What is the reason added to the fifth commandment?

All: The reason added to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it serves for God's glory and their own good) to all who keep this commandment.

Leader: Is anyone able to keep the commandments of God perfectly?

All: Since the fall, no mere human is able to keep the commandments of God perfectly in this life; everyone breaks them daily in thought, word and deed.

God's Renewal

*This is a time
of community
prayer and
holy silence.
Please use this
time to slow
down, pray, and
reflect on your
relationship
with God and
your neighbor.
Worshippers
may choose to
kneel or remain
seated during
this time.*

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**All: Almighty and most merciful Father,
we are thankful that your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.
Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND COMFORT

Rev. JB Wilbanks

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Minister: *For all who have confessed their sins and have fled to Christ for mercy, hear this word of assurance:*

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. *And such were some of you. But* you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Please stand
for the Song of
Assurance.

God's Grace

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Is He Worthy?

Do you feel the world is broken? (*We do*)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (*We do*)
But do you know that all the dark won't
stop the light from getting through? (*We do*)
Do you wish that you could see
it all made new? (*We do*)

Is all creation groaning? (*It is*)
Is a new creation coming? (*It is*)
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light
within our midst? (*It is*)
Is it good that we remind ourselves
of this? (*It is*)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal
and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this? He is

Does the Father truly love us? (*He does*)
Does the Spirit move among us? (*He does*)
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever
those He loves? (*He does*)

Does our God intend to dwell again
with us? (*He does*)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal
and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah
who conquered the grave
He is David's root
and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe
Every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom
and priests to God
To reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this? He is!
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is! He is!

"Lectio Sacra" means "sacred reading." It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the Bible read during worship services. The assumption behind this practice is that we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's Word.

Please be seated.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mr. Kyle Pido

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Mr. Doug Smith

SILENT PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

Each week, we pray for the people around us and in the world as a way to serve them according to God's will. You are welcome to sit or kneel as we pray. If you have children, please feel free to use this time to teach them to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.
Amen.**

God's Grace

At the parents' discretion, children age 4 through the end of kindergarten may attend Training in the Pews Children's Worship. Children meet at the front entrance of the sanctuary during the Greeting of Peace to be escorted by volunteers to their classroom. The pastor will invite you to pick up your child in the narthex after the offertory prayer.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Leader: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Please stand.

SCRIPTURE READING

text on page 14

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Spirit makes the reading and preaching of God's Word a powerful means of nourishing and comforting God's people, and awakening people to new faith.

THE SERMON

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

Zechariah: A Song of Hope

Rev. JB Wilbanks

The Word of God is the chief and final means through which God speaks to us; the principal and most direct way we hear from God in worship.

LUKE 1:5-25, 57-80

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." . . .

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have

called him Zechariah after his father,⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.”⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

Sursum Corda
is Latin for "lift
up your hearts."

*One of the
oldest liturgical
pieces still in
use, it calls us
to be heavenly
minded and
summons us
into the Lord's
presence. Along
with the voices
around you,
hear the echo
of 2000 years
of worshipping
Christians who
have gone
before.*

PREPARING OUR HEARTS TO BE FED

Rev. JB Wilbanks

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

Minister: The Lord be with you!

People: And with your spirit!

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Because you sent your Beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Glory be to You, O Lord Most High!**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

WORDS OF RESPONSE

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All: Hallelujah!

THE OFFERING

Minister: What do you have that you did not receive?

Let us pray. All things, all gifts, come from you, O God and should be received with gratitude. In gratitude we now return to you what is yours. Receive these tithes and offerings, our tangible expressions of love and gratitude. Amen.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”
2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

*All we have
is given to
us by God.
Our offerings
express
this joyful
dependence
and our
commitment to
join God in his
work of renewal.*

In response to God's grace to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we bring gifts and offerings to the Lord with thanksgiving and joy. Worshippers may place their gifts in the offering box at the back as they return to their seats. You may also give by texting any dollar amount to 84321, through the Church Center app, or at <https://redeemerprestemple.churchcenter.com/giving>

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is a time for all of us to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving" is a time to meet with their Savior by faith to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. The Lord's Supper is a joyful celebration in which the family of God together delights in the presence and salvation of their Redeemer King. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the Gospel, are at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We would love to pray with and for you during this time and there will be someone stationed at the front of the sanctuary at both side walls to do so. Please let us know if there is something specific you would like us to pray for.

A Word to Parents

Children are invited to come forward, either to receive communion or a prayer of blessing. To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the Session (elders) of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. If your children will not be receiving communion, please instruct them to come forward with their arms crossed to receive a prayer of blessing. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table and ask that you speak with the pastor when you believe your child is ready to begin the process.

Directions for Participating in Communion

*If you are participating, when you are ready, please join the line coming down the center aisle. You will make your way past the servers at the front to receive the elements. Then, please return to your seat by way of the side aisles and hallway. If you wish to bring an offering to the Lord, please place it in the box at the back of the room as you return to your seat. We use wine in communion. Individual cups are available in the trays, with **grape juice** in the middle ring in the **purple cups** which may be requested by those who desire it. A **gluten-free cracker** is available upon request for those unable to eat the bread due to allergies.*

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, your perfect life, death, and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

Because Redeemer is a church that is not only for convinced Christians, but also for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we gladly extend room for you to process, think, and dialogue. Use the prayers provided below as guides to reflect upon and respond to what God is doing in your life.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

God's Grace

COMMUNION SONG

Gather 'Round, Ye Children, Come

Gather 'round, ye children, come,
Listen to the old, old story
Of the pow'r of Death undone
By an infant born of glory
Son of God, Son of Man.

So gather 'round, remember now,
How creation held its breath,
How it let out a sigh
And it filled up the sky
With the angels,
Son of God, Son of Man.

So sing out with joy
For the brave little boy
Who was God,
But He made Himself nothing.
He gave up His pride
And He came here to die like a man.

Therefore, God exalted Him
To the place of highest praises,
And He gave Him a name above every name
That at the very name of Jesus, Son of God

We would sing out with joy
For the brave little boy
Who was God,
But He made Himself nothing.
He gave up His pride
And He came here to die like a man.

So in heav'n and earth and below
Every knee would bow in worship
And ev'ry tongue would proclaim
That Jesus, He reigns with the angels

So sing out with joy
For the brave little boy
Who was God,
But He made Himself nothing.
'Cause He gave up His pride
And He came here to die like a man.

So gather 'round, ye children, come,
Listen to the old, old story
Of the pow'r of Death undone
By an infant born of glory,
Son of God, Son of Man.

God's Grace

COMMUNION SONG

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865
Music: English melody, 16th cent.
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God's Blessing

SONG OF BLESSING AND SENDING

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

God's Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

Just as we begin with with God's gracious invitation, so we end with God's promise to always be with us. It is appropriate to lift our heads as a symbol that through Christ God graciously lifts our head, and we hold out our hands palms up to symbolize our need and eagerness to receive God's blessing.

BENEDICTION

Rev. JB Wilbanks

Ephesians 3:20-21

Minister: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

POSTLUDE

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

A Catechism is an ancient, simple, and effective tool for teaching the basics of the Christian faith. The New City Catechism is a modern catechism in the Reformed tradition that draws from the ancient practice of basing Christian formation around the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Through 52 questions and answers it helps form our hearts and our minds around the great truths of the Christian faith. The bold portion is a more concise answer designed to be memorized by younger children.

QUESTION 7: What does the law of God require?

ANSWER: Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; **that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.** What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done. *Matthew 22:37-40*

QUESTION 8: What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

ANSWER: **You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol** in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below—you shall not bow down to them or worship them. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.** *Exodus 20:3*

PRAYER AND PHYSICAL NEEDS

If you would like someone to pray for or with you, please consider contacting one of our elders (info on next page). They would love to talk with you and pray for you. We also hope you will join a Community Group to build relationships with people who know you and pray for you on a regular basis. If you have physical or material needs, please contact our deacon team at deaconteam@redeemerprestemple.org

CHURCH OFFICERS & STAFF

SESSION

JB Wilbanks, Teaching Elder
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Keenan Swain, Deacon
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Redeemer's Deacon Team is comprised of deacons, as well as men and women deacon assistants who are appointed by the Session to assist the deacons in caring for those who are in distress or need.

MUSICIANS

Vocalists: Dr. David Joffrion, Mrs. Sarah Spencer
 Guitar: Dr. David Joffrion
 Piano/Keys: Mr. Josh Illian, Mr. Nathan Crews
 Percussion: Mr. Caden Van Cleave
 Bass Guitar: Mr. Jaime Madrid
 Violin: Mr. Taylor Wilby

STAFF

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 jb.wilbanks@redeemerprestemple.org

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 Director of Connections and Engagement
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Jenny Kiniry, Director of Women's Ministry
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David Joffrion, Director of Worship Music
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Brianne Welch, Director of Youth Ministry
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Keenan Swain, Bookkeeper
 bookkeeper@redeemerprestemple.org

Rob Young, Audio/Visual Coordinator
 robert.young@redeemerprestemple.org / 757-450-2962

Michael Spencer, Facilities Manager
 michael.spencer@redeemerprestemple.org

FINANCIAL GIVING REPORT

Thank you for your faithful and generous giving to Jesus' mission through Redeemer!

	INCOME*	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES*	ACTUAL VARIANCE
2023 Jan-Nov	\$531,385.17	\$566,324.00	\$469,128.75	\$62,256.42
2023 November	\$57,507.71	\$51,484.00	\$40,993.86	\$16,513.85
2023 October	\$40,959.61	\$51,484.00	\$47,765.72	(\$6,806.11)
2023 September	\$45,996.78	\$51,484.00	\$44,270.89	\$1,725.89

**These include all funds and operating expenses except income and expenses in the designated building fund.*

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Subscribe to our weekly news email! Contact us at office@redeemerprestemple.org to be added.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS | Redeemer is decorated with poinsettias again this Advent season! If you would like to purchase a poinsettia (\$12 or \$24), you may contribute by scanning the code below. (The link has been fixed!) Any plants that you purchase, you may pick up after the church service on Sunday, December 31.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS | Help us get to know one another by adding your family's picture to our Church Center directory! If you need an updated one, there will be an opportunity for photos after the worship service today as well as next Sunday.

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS + CAROLS | Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our annual Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 6pm! We will gather for a brief time of singing and Advent Scripture readings followed by holiday refreshments. SIGN UP to read, help set up, or bring a treat! Scan the QR code below.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN | We're in the middle of a capital campaign with the goal of paying off our mortgage principal. So far in 2023, \$173,454 has been given to the mortgage paydown and our amount owed is at \$233,628. You may give by check or through Church Center; designate your gift for the Building Fund. More info linked below.

NO PRIME TIME FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH | 55+ Game Night will resume in January

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 Christmas Eve Lessons + Carols 6pm

January 21 Sunday School resumes

February 1-3 Men's Retreat

February 11 Community Groups resume



WORSHIP | Sundays 10:00 AM

ADDRESS | 12 W French Ave, Temple TX 76501

WEB | redeemerprestemple.org

EMAIL | office@redeemerprestemple.org

PHONE | 254.935.3711

FACEBOOK | [redeemerprestemple](https://www.facebook.com/redeemerprestemple)

Text **RPCinfo** to **55498**
for information on
social events, Bible
studies, membership,
and more!



CONNECT WITH US

FIND US ON THE CHURCH CENTER APP
redeemerprestemple.churchcenter.com