



# Redeemer

PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# Welcome to Redeemer!

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## 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 Third Sunday of Advent*

December 17, 2023 | 10:00 am

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*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

*Mr. Heath Robinson*

## 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)*

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

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## 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

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Please stand.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Mr. Heath Robinson*

### *Psalm 92:1-4*

*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.*

*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.*

Leader: "It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**All: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,**

Leader: to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.

**All: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy."**

# God's Supremacy

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## SONG OF ADORATION

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

*Truro*

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Savior of the world is here.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

2. A helper just He comes to thee,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

3. O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
Until the glorious crown be won.

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Based on Psalm 24  
Words: Georg Weissel, 1642  
Translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; alt.  
Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789  
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# *God's Supremacy*

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*Mr. Heath Robinson*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Mr. Heath Robinson*

*Westminster Larger Catechism #37*

Leader: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

**All: Christ the Son of God became man,  
by taking to himself a true body,  
and a reasonable soul,  
being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost  
in the womb of the virgin Mary,  
of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.**

# *God's Supremacy*

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## DOXOLOGY

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 3*

*Regent Square*

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

*Rev. JB Wilbanks*

### *Westminster Shorter Catechism #67, 68, 69, 82*

Minister: What is the sixth commandment?

**All: The sixth commandment is, “You shall not murder.”**

Minister: What is required in the sixth commandment?

**All: The sixth commandment requires all lawful efforts to preserve our own life and others.**

Minister: What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

**All: The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly, as well as anything that tends to that.**

Minister: 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

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*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:      Glorious Creator God, Maker of heaven and earth,  
We confess that we have failed to see  
your significance and worth.  
We have given ultimate significance  
to things which cannot save—  
jobs, family, finances, recreation,  
human approval and love.  
We have turned your good gifts into “gods”,  
idols we worship.  
When others threaten or take away these things—  
things we believe we cannot live without—  
we fight, quarrel, lash out in rage,  
and commit murder in our hearts.  
When we see our sin,  
we are presented with a list of accusations.  
When our hearts are exposed, we feel ashamed.  
When we try to make ourselves better,  
to heal and cleanse ourselves—  
we end up weary, exhausted, and in despair.  
We need more than rules and a good example.  
We need a Redeemer.  
We cannot save ourselves.  
Let us run to Jesus as our refuge,  
our identity, our substitute—  
who took our guilt and shame.  
Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND COMFORT

*Rev. JB Wilbanks*

*Romans 5:8*

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

“...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still  
sinners, Christ died for us.”

Please stand  
for the Song of  
Assurance.

# God's Grace

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## SONG OF ASSURANCE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*Veni Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Day-spring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

5. O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

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Latin antiphons, 12th cent.  
Words: Latin hymn, 1710  
Translated: John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961  
Music: Plainsong, 13th cent.  
Arranged by Thomas Helmore, 1856  
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*"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.

*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.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Mrs. Courtney Robinson*

*Isaiah 61:1-11*

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

*Dr. Paul Hicks*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Adapted from **The Valley of Vision***

**All: O Source of All Good,  
What shall I give to You for the gift of gifts,  
Your own dear Son, my Redeemer and substitute,  
His self-emptying incomprehensible,  
His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp?  
Herein is wonder of wonders:  
He came below to raise me above,  
was born like me that I might become like Him.  
Herein is love: when I cannot rise to Him  
He draws near on wings of grace, to raise me to Himself.  
Herein is power: when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart  
He united them in indissoluble unity,  
the uncreated and the created.  
Herein is wisdom: when I was undone,  
with no will to return to Him,  
and no intellect to devise recovery,  
He came, God-incarnate, to save me to the uttermost,  
as man to die my death, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,  
to work out a perfect righteousness for me.**

**Enlarge my heart with the wonder of Christmas,  
and let me delight in Jesus before others,  
that they too may desire this gift of gifts. Amen.**

# God's Grace

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*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 1:26-56*

*Mary: A Song of Joy*

*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 1:26-56

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

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<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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.*

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*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

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## COMMUNION SONG

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*Wondrous Love*

1. What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2. When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb,  
I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb  
Who is the great "I Am";  
While millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

4. And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

# God's Grace

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## COMMUNION SONG

### *Come Light Our Hearts*

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You,  
Truly our hope is in You.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You,  
Truly our hope is in You.

1. O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You,  
Truly our hope is in You.

2. Oh Joy above all other loves,  
In You we find, more than enough.  
We come as we are; O heal and restore,  
Come light our hearts.

Oh Joy above all other loves,  
In You we find, more than enough.  
We come as we are; O heal and restore,  
Come light our hearts.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You,  
Truly our hope is in You.  
Truly our hope is in You.

# God's Blessing

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## SONG OF BLESSING AND SENDING

### *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

#### *Chorus:*

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
His reign on earth begun!

1. He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

#### *Chorus*

2. He comes with comfort speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;

3. To give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in His sight.

#### *Chorus*

4. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in His path to birth.

#### *Chorus*

5. The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His Name shall stand forever,  
That Name to us is Love.

#### *Chorus*

# God's Blessing

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## 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*

***Romans 16:20***

Minister: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

## POSTLUDE

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## 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 9:** What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

**ANSWER:** **First, that we know** and trust **God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry** and do not worship God improperly. **Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence**, honoring also his Word and works. *Deuteronomy 6:13–14*

**QUESTION 10:** What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

**ANSWER:** **Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God**, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. **Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother**, submitting to their godly discipline and direction. *Leviticus 19:3*

*New City Catechism | Adapted by Timothy Keller and Sam Shammas from the Reformation catechisms | Copyright © 2012 by Redeemer Presbyterian Church*

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## 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](mailto:deaconteam@redeemerprestemple.org)*

# CHURCH OFFICERS & STAFF

## SESSION

JB Wilbanks, Teaching Elder  
 jb.wilbanks@redeemerprestemple.org

Paul Hicks, Ruling Elder  
 pbhicks4520@gmail.com / 254.760.8309

Heath Robinson, Ruling Elder  
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Doug Smith, Ruling Elder  
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## DEACON TEAM

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Matt Kiniry, Deacon  
 matt.kiniry@gmail.com / 254.541.5702

Keenan Swain, Deacon  
 keenan@redeemerprestemple.org / 254.541.6953

*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.*

## STAFF

JB Wilbanks, Senior Pastor  
 jb.wilbanks@redeemerprestemple.org

Liz Joffrion, Administrator, Communications, and Design  
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Erin Illian, Director of Nursery and Children's Ministry,  
 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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Keenan Swain, Bookkeeper  
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Rob Young, Audio/Visual Coordinator  
 robert.young@redeemerprestemple.org / 757-450-2962

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

## MUSICIANS

Vocalists: Dr. David Joffrion, Mr. Jonathan Sowell, Mrs. Amanda Masoner, Mrs. Sarah Spencer  
 Guitar: Dr. David Joffrion, Mr. Jonathan Sowell  
 Piano/Keys: Mrs. Liz Joffrion, Mr. Nathan Crews  
 Percussion: Mr. Caden Van Cleave  
 Bass Guitar: Mr. Jaime Madrid  
 Violin: Mr. Taylor Wilby

## 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](mailto:office@redeemerprestemple.org) to be added.*

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**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, have one taken today after the worship service on the west side of the building.

**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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 24** Christmas Eve Lessons + Carols

**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](http://redeemerprestemple.org)

**EMAIL** | [office@redeemerprestemple.org](mailto: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](http://redeemerprestemple.churchcenter.com)