



# 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
December 24, 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

*Rev. JB Wilbanks*

## 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 |
| EPIPHANY  | 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.”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| LENT      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| EASTER    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PENTECOST |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# God's Supremacy

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Please stand.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Mr. Doug 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.*

### *Psalm 59:16-17*

Leader: "But I will sing of your strength;  
I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.  
For you have been to me a fortress  
and a refuge in the day of my distress.

**All: O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress,  
the God who shows me steadfast love."**

*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

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## SONG OF ADORATION

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Adeste Fideles*

1. 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.

2. God of God,  
Light of Light;  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:  
very God,  
begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God  
in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
late in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

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Translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841  
Music: John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751  
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# God's Supremacy

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## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*Mr. Doug Smith*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Mr. Doug Smith*

### *The Nicene Creed*

*The Nicene Creed "was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ." (Trinity Hymnal) "In its present form this creed goes back partially to the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325) with additions by the Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381). It was accepted in its present form at the Council of Chalcedon in 451, but the filioque phrase ["and the Son"] was not added until 589." (Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions)*

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

**All: 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 also 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 together  
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.**

# *God's Supremacy*

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## DOXOLOGY

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 4*

*Regent Square*

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

# God's Renewal

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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. Heath Robinson*

### *Westminster Shorter Catechism # 70, 71, 72, 82*

Leader: What is the seventh commandment?

**All: The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”**

Leader: What is required in the seventh commandment?

**All: The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech and behavior.**

Leader: What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

**All: The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words and actions.**

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

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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:       Majestic and Righteous God,  
we need to be forgiven.  
You are perfect and pure.  
In the blazing light of your holiness,  
we are exposed as vile and impure.  
You are the loving God who delivers people from slavery.  
Yet we so often prefer the chains of lust.  
We have sought security in the arms of other lovers,  
saying to them: "Deliver me, for you are my god!"  
We have sought comfort in power, position, possessions,  
and praise more than in your loving embrace.  
But you are not only holy, but merciful too.  
Please forgive our adultery.  
We are often unfaithful.  
But you are always faithful.  
You have sent your Son, Jesus,  
who lived a perfect life,  
and died a sacrificial death,  
to rescue and redeem us from sin.  
Let us run to him, the lover of our souls.  
Let us bathe in his abundant grace,  
that covers all of our sin.  
Make us into your pure Bride. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND COMFORT

*Rev. JB Wilbanks*

*Zechariah 12:10; 13:1*

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

““And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. . . . “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”

Please stand  
for the Song of  
Assurance.

# God's Grace

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## SONG OF ASSURANCE

### *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

*Mendelssohn*

1. 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 th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris’n 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.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”

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Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840  
Arranged by William H. Cummings, 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

*Mr. Gary Rapp*

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. JB Wilbanks*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: Heavenly Father, we delight in the good news communicated to us in your Word, that you have given the greatest gift at Christmas:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”  
*(John 3:16-17)*

**All: Flood our hearts with an assurance of your love for us. Let us wonder at the gift of Jesus. Give us hope in the gift of eternal life given to all who believe in Jesus.**

Minister: Jesus, you prayed to the Father, for us, your people:

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” *(John 17:18, 20-21)*

**All: Jesus, you have prayed for us. Give us courage to speak to others about you this Christmas. Let them believe and receive life.**

*(Silent prayers may be offered to God at this time.)*

# 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

Minister: 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 2:1-20*

*The Angels: A Song of Peace*

*Rev. JB Wilbanks*

# God's Grace

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*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 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

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## SERMON NOTES

*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

*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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Words: Latin hymn, 1710  
Translated: John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961  
Music: Plainsong, 13th cent.  
Arranged by Thomas Helmore, 1856  
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# God's Grace

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## COMMUNION SONG

### *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly Father,  
a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"let nothing you afright;  
this day is born a Savior  
of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4. The shepherds at those tidings  
re-joic-ed much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feed-ing,  
in tempest, storm, and wind:  
and went to Bethlehem straightway,  
the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

# God's Blessing

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## SONG OF BLESSING AND SENDING

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

*Antioch*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart  
Prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

# 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*

### *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Minister: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

## 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 11:** What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

**ANSWER:** **Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate,** or be hostile to **our neighbor**, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. **Seventh, that we abstain** from sexual immorality and **live purely and faithfully**, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. **Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else**, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit. *Romans 13:9*

**QUESTION 12:** What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

**ANSWER:** **Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive**, but speak the truth in love. **Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone** or resenting what God has given them or us. *Leviticus 19:3*

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

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

## CHURCH OFFICERS & STAFF

### SESSION

JB Wilbanks, Teaching Elder  
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Paul Hicks, Ruling Elder  
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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  
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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.*

### MUSICIANS

Vocalists: Dr. David Joffrion, Mrs. Amanda Masoner  
 Guitar: Dr. David Joffrion  
 Piano/Keys: Mr. Josh Illian, Mr. Nathan Crews  
 Percussion: Mr. Caden Van Cleave  
 Bass Guitar: Mr. Jaime Madrid

### STAFF

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 Director of Connections and Engagement  
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Jenny Kiniry, Director of Women's Ministry  
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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

## 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 EVE LESSONS + CAROLS** | Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our annual Christmas Eve service tonight at 6pm! We will gather for a brief time of singing and Advent Scripture readings followed by holiday refreshments.

**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

**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** | 254.295.9975

**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)