



# REDEEMER PRES

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

1.03.2021

# Explanation of Cover Art

*By Bethany Sanders*

*The first panel is for 1 Peter 4:12-13, where Peter talks about fiery ordeals.*

*The second panel is for 1 Peter 5:1-4 where Peter addresses the elders and exhorts them to be shepherds of God's flock. I was thinking about how in 1 Peter 5 the shepherds are also the sheep. So I have a sheeple shepherd doing a fire-man carry of a sheeple from his flock. The background is a cracked desert because the shepherd is carrying the other sheep to safety.*

*The third panel is for 1 Peter 5:8-9, where Peter tells Christians to resist the devil who "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." I wondered how sheep could resist a lion. Peter uses the term "resist" instead of "defeat," so I drew the sheep with staffs—defensive rather than offensive weapons—and had them face the prowling lion together.*

# Explanation of Window Art

*By Erin Hall*

*These tattered royal garments are arranged in structured community. From the perspective of one piece, they may be overshadowed or feel exposed and rub against the frays of another, but from afar even the tattered humble fragments show glimpses of their beauty in how they play off each other. There are many circles and intersections in our body, but one strong common chord. I was also meditating on the ideas of "casting anxiety on him" and clothing ourselves in humility toward one another; submitting to elders as part of the necessary structure: for each piece, if not tied in, would easily drift away. It is also such joy that our Lord sees our beauty now, and delights in us, even as we are.*

# Welcome

## Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 62*

*Leader* Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
my salvation comes from him.

*All* **Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.**

*Leader* Yes, my soul, find rest in God;  
my hope comes from him.

*All* **Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.  
My salvation and my honor depend on God;  
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.**

*Leader* Trust in him at all times, you people;  
pour out your hearts to him,  
for God is our refuge.

*All* **One thing God has spoken,  
two things I have heard:  
“Power belongs to you, God,  
and with you, Lord, is unfailing love.”**

# Opening Hymn

*“The Love of God”*

*All*

**The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.**

**When hoary time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,  
When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God’s love so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam’s race— the saints’ and angels’ song.**

**Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure— the saints’ and angels’ song.**

**Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.**

**Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure— the saints’ and angels’ song.**

**Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure— the saints’ and angels’ song.**

*words by Frederick Martin Lehman*

# Prayer of Adoration

## Prayer of Confession

*Drawn from 1 Peter 1-2*

*Leader*      Apart from you, Lord, our way of life seems full and right,  
                 but really, it's only empty, cut off from true light and life.

*All*            **We're like sheep going astray,  
                 who don't even know they don't know their own way.**

*Leader*      We proclaim your grace with our lips.

*All*            **But at the first sign of hardship,  
                 we throw up our hands and declare that God does not care.**

*Leader*      We are the center of our own universe.

*All*            **We forget that God has given us his church to encourage, correct, and sustain us.**

*Leader*      We do not live in a way that proclaims the power of your salvation.

*All*            **Our lives do not testify to the grace we have received.  
                 Nothing in the way we live shows how you have saved us.**

*Leader*      Unless you call us, God, we remain in darkness.

*All*            **Restore us to yourself, Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

# Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

*Drawn from 1 Peter 1-3*

*Leader*

Jesus is special and dear to God.  
The Father chose him before the creation of the world  
to be the cornerstone of the new world.

*All*

**Christ was revealed when he suffered for us,  
bearing our sins in his body on the cross, to bring us to God.**

*Leader*

Put to death in the body, he was made alive in the Spirit.

*All*

**He ascended into heaven where he reigns at his Father's right hand,  
over every power, authority, ideology, structure, and sphere.**

*Leader*

You are special and dear to God.  
God has chosen and redeemed you to make you his special possession  
that you would trust him and follow in Jesus' steps.

*All*

**Let us walk, then, in both joy and hardship,  
until Jesus is revealed in glory.**

*Leader*

Once you were not a people,

*All*

**but now we are God's people!**

*Leader*

Once you had not received mercy,

*All*

**but now we have received mercy!**

# Song in the Gospel

*"How Deep the Father's love for Us"*

*All*

**How deep the Father's love for us; how vast beyond all measure,  
That he would give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns his face away,  
As wounds which mar the chosen One, bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross, my guilt upon his shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there, until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no powr's, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ransom.**

**How deep the Father's love for us; how vast beyond all measure,  
That he would give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.**

*Stuart Townend, 1995*

# Song in the Gospel

*“Jesus I My Cross Have Taken”*

*All*

Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shalt be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought or hoped or known,  
Yet how rich is my condition,  
God and heaven are still my own.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,  
Come, disaster, scorn and pain.  
In thy service, pain is pleasure,  
With thy favour, loss is gain.  
I have called thee, 'Abba, Father,'  
I have stayed my heart on thee,  
Storms may howl and clouds may gather,  
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation,  
Rise over sin and fear and care.  
Joy to find in every station,  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,  
Think what Father's smiles are thine,  
Think that Jesus died to win thee,  
Child of heaven, canst thou repine?

Haste thee on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
Heaven's eternal days before thee,  
God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

*words by Henry Lyte arrangement by Bill Moore*



# Offering of Gifts and Service

*Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]*



# Scripture

*1 Peter 5:12-14*

*Reader*

<sup>12</sup>I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.

<sup>13</sup>Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. <sup>14</sup>Greet each other with a kiss of love.

Peace be with all of you who are in Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Sermon

Ben Reed

*Stand Firm in the Grace of God*

# Community Group Questions

- 1) Peter says in verse 12, “My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God’s grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.” What does it look like to “stand firm in this grace?”
- 2) Peter reminds the readers of their fellow Christians (their sister church). How can being connected to the larger church help you face trials?
- 3) The kiss of love Peter talks about was a symbol to the culture of the time that Christians were bound together like a family in a way that cut across all boundaries. What are things we can do as a church to send the same type of signal to our culture?

## *Children’s Question*

Peter uses the end of his letter to summarize the important points he made. It is kind of like he is saying, “If you only remember a few things, remember this!” If you had five minutes to tell someone the most important things about what it means to be a Christian, what would you tell them?

# Song of Response

*“Hold Thou My Hand”*

*All*

**Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,  
I dare not take one step without thy aid;  
Hold thou my hand; for then, O loving Savior,  
No dread of ill shall make my soul afraid.**

**Hold thou my hand, and closer, draw me closer,  
To thy dear self, my hope, my joy, my all;  
Hold thou my hand, lest haply I should wander,  
And, missing thee, my trembling feet should fall.**

**Hold thou my hand; the way is dark before me,  
Without the sunlight of thy face divine;  
But when by faith, I catch its radiant glory,  
What heights of joy, what rapturous songs are mine!**

**Hold thou my hand, that when I reach the margin,  
Of that lone river thou didst cross for me,  
A heavenly light may flash along its waters,  
And every wave like crystal bright shall be.**

**Hold thou my hand; so weak I am, and helpless,  
I dare not take one step without thy aid;  
I dare not take one step without thy aid.**

*words Fanny Crosby, 1879; music Nathan Partain, 2003*

# Community Life

Christmas/Epiphany Prayer Guide

Women's Bible Studies

## Valediction

*From Romans 12:12*

*Leader* O you favorite children of God,  
rejoice in hope!

*All* **We will rejoice in the hope that Jesus is in control,  
and that he is right now  
remaking all things into heaven's own beauty.**

*Leader* Be patient in tribulation!

*All* **We will be patient, not knowing what today will bring  
or understanding what God is doing,  
but trusting it will be the highest possible good.**

*Leader* Be constant in prayer!

*All* **We will not trust our own ideas or opinions,  
our own plans or contingencies,  
our own methods for coping or escape.  
No, we will throw ourselves upon the merciful will of our faithful Father,  
and we will pour out our hearts to him,  
because he intimately knows and cares for us.**

*Leader* He is alive and is active,  
protecting, providing, and intervening right now.

*All* **Yes and he will respond to all we ask,  
through Jesus,  
Amen.**

# Closing Hymn

*“All Glory Be to Christ”*

*All*

**Should nothing of our efforts stand; no legacy survive,  
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.  
To you who boast tomorrow’s gain, tell me what is your life.  
A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!**

**His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above,  
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love.  
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price,  
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!**

**When on the day the great I am the faithful and the true,  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain Is making all things new.  
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.  
And we shall ere his people be all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!**

*words by Dustin Kensrue*

# Contact Us

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2020 budget:

\$ 2,256,301

year to date giving:

\$ 2,225,242.53

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## Congregational Giving

Dec 27th .....	\$	\$152,632.12
Dec Total .....	\$	\$327,106.46
Dec Budget .....	\$	\$188,025.08

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