

### **Explanation of Cover Art**

In an early November liturgical arts planning meeting, Katie Porcho said that Advent this year should feel like a warm sweater. We began visioning wool and soft textiles to convey cozy warmth, even as we are physically apart in worship. Then, as we went along, all our original ideas for Christmas Eve adapted to be a mobile Advent spectacle that came to you where you were, like Jesus coming to us.

Central to our ideas throughout was the Ojo (God's eye) that looks like a cross or star. Some of the large ones were made many years ago for a different Advent. Kurt Green made the large yellow one, Erin Hall made the intricate one near the front of the stage (stage right), and Moriah Miller made the round star yarn sculpture by the organ. The 2 banners of Ojos were made by many youth, children, and small groups woven together. Each was made at home and brought together to make a beautiful pattern, to be warm and comfy like a sweater.

## **Explanation of Stage Triptych 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**

from Isaiah 61:1-2

Leader The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon Jesus, because the LORD anointed him to proclaim good news to the poor.

All He sent him to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

Leader He proclaimed this age of the LORD's favor.

### **Opening Hymn**

"Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

All Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love; When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above; Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heaven, The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given; Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus, the Judge, shall come, And take his servants up to their eternal home. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, I say, rejoice! Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, I say, rejoice! Rejoice, I say, rejoice! Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

words Charles Wesley, 1744; music Nathan Partain, 2003

### **Prayer of Adoration**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Based on Romans 1:25; Luke 15:12-13; Romans 8:12; Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 5:19-21

Our Father and God made it plain to all humanity through creation and through the message of his word, who he is, that he is good, and that we are his creatures and that we are made for him.

But we have turned away from our Creator and Father, and our sin rightly condemns us.

All We exchange God for what he has made,
looking for life and meaning in created things.
We run away from home, telling our Dad,
"I wish you were dead. Give me your stuff,
so that I can live how I want."

Leader Sin overpowers and masters us.

All We do what we don't want to.
We don't do what we do want to.
"Why keep trying?" we despair.
"Nothing will change."

Leader We live according to the flesh, gratifying its cravings.

All
Our minds are set towards this world, what it offers.
We covet and envy.
We divide into factions.
We dabble, and then indulge, in sexual immorality.

Leader Who will rescue us from sin, the flesh, the world, and the devil?

### **Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel**

Based on Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 5:13-26

Leader Jesus Christ has come in the flesh—even more, the likeness of sinful flesh—to condemn sin and crucify the sinful flesh.

All Christ's life, Christ's obedience, Christ's righteousness are all ours in him.

Leader The Son became a sin-offering for us:
all your condemnation, your guilt, your failure, your self-righteousness
has been poured out on him!

All Praise be to God: we are justified, forgiven, and freed!

Leader Jesus has become the resurrected, ascended Lord in heaven, from where he has poured out his Spirit to give you life.

All Let us then
live by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, bear the fruit of the Spirit,
and keep in step with the Spirit.

## Song in the Gospel

"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

All Jesus, thy blood and righteousness, my beauty are, my glorious dress; 'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day; for who aught to my charge shall lay? Fully absolved, through these I am, from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

So I join with the song of the Lord's redeemed.

And I praise with the throngs at the throne of my King!

Oh the might! Oh the fear! Oh the mercy that's His,

In the blood of his Son and the grace that it gives.

This spotless robe the same appears, when ruined nature sinks in years; No age can change, its glorious hue, the robe of Christ is ever new.

So I join with the song of the Lord's redeemed.
And I praise with the throngs at the throne of my King!
Oh the might! Oh the fear! Oh the mercy that's His,
In the blood of his Son and the grace that it gives.

O let the dead now hear thy voice; now bid thy banished ones rejoice; Their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.

So I join with the song of the Lord's redeemed.
And I praise with the throngs at the throne of my King!
Oh the might! Oh the fear! Oh the mercy that's His,
In the blood of his Son and the grace that it gives.

words Nikolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1739; music Nathan Partain, 2010

### Song in the Gospel

"The Church's One Foundation"

All
The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord,
We are his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

We are from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; Our charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth; One name together blessing, one holy food we share, To one hope ever pressing, at one in work and prayer.

Though with a mournful wonder, we have been sore oppressed, By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, Yet we our watch are keeping; our cry goes up, "How long?" For soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Now we on earth have union with God the three in one, And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. We wait the moment glorious, when we in white are dressed, And raised, through him, victorious, we're one with Christ at last.

words: Samuel Stone; music: Brian Moss @ 1996 Parson John Publishing

# **Prayer of Dependence**

# Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



### **Scripture**

Romans 8:1-4

Reader

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Sermon

Charles Anderson
The Importance of Capital S

## **Community Group Questions**

- 1) How do you experience feeling stuck in sin? What does it feel like? Where do you feel trapped in the same sin over and over? What difference does it make to think of a distinction between Sin and sins?
- 2) What does it mean in Romans 8:2 that it is "through Jesus Christ" that the Spirit has set you free? How do we seek freedom apart from Christ? How does God give us freedom from Sin and death through Christ?
- 3) Take one area where you experience feeling stuck in sin. How can you preach and believe your freedom in Christ in answer to that feeling of stuckness this week?

#### Children's Questions:

Sin sometimes makes us feel stuck, like it's in charge of us. We keep doing the wrong thing over and over, like fighting with a sibling. Or we keep not doing the right thing over and over, like respecting your parents. What are some wrong ways to handle that over and over pattern? What does Romans 8:2 tell you is a good way?

### **Prayer of Response**

Kyle and Cindy Ragsdale

### **Community Life**

Tent of Meeting
February 7

Part-time Deacon Team Coordinator position open. www.redeemindy.org/jobs

### **Valediction**

From Psalm 73:21-26

Leader When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
I was senseless and ignorant;
I was like a brute beast before you.

All Yet I am continually with you, because you have held fast to my right hand.

Leader You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

All Whom have I in heaven but you?

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

Leader My flesh and my heart may fail,

All But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

## **Closing Hymn**

"The Lord is my Jov"

All The Lord is my joy, the Lord is my joy,
When all that I have is lost, I find
The Lord is my joy.

The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my strength, When I am too weak to go on, I find The Lord is my strength.

My all in all is he, my healing King, My Master tends to me, for him, my soul shall sing.

The Lord is my rock, the Lord is my rock, When all I have faith in fails, I find The Lord is my rock.

The Lord is my delight, the Lord is my delight, Above all the joys of life, I find The Lord is my delight.

My all in all is he, my breath, my song. In him, I have everything; to him, my soul belongs.

Women

I wait, and wait upon you, to come for me in rescue.

Give strength, my heart is failing, yet still, my lips will praise you.

(Repeat)

Men
 And with his wings he covers me, he keeps his watch while I'm asleep,
 I offer all my plans and dreams, I give my savior everything.
 And with his wings he covers me, he keeps his watch while I'm asleep,
 I offer all my plans and dreams.

All You who gave your only son, I dare not doubt your steadfast love.

Come, I beg you take my life, if I am yours then all is right.

You who gave your only son, I dare not doubt your steadfast love.

Come, I beg you take my life, if I am yours then all is right.

My all in all is he, my dearest friend. I put my trust in him; on him, my soul depends.

Nathan Partain, 2008

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2021 budget: \$ 2,487,554

year to date giving: \$ 49,490.16

#### Congregational Giving

Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	\$ \$18,296.17
Jan Total	\$ \$49,490.16
Jan Budget	\$ \$207,296.17