



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADVENT | 12.12.2021

Cover Art

Cuneiform, "For God So Loved the World"

David Halladay

Words scribed in clay tablets from the time of Ezra remain today, even though the people who made them are long gone. The infinite God we speak and listen to each Sunday knows and remembers each word he has spoken to us, and remembers every human word ever spoken since the beginning of creation. Names, prayers and blessings are scribed on the clay tablets we made in the Advent Workshop.

Advent Procession

In our Advent procession, elements of past liturgical artworks from this season are carried in each week. These common items—such as yarn and string—help us remember Advents past, even as we continue to wait. These elements remind us of the many ways God has been part of every Advent season at Redeemer.

Window Covering

Barb Knuckles

The window is a map of rebuilding: the rings represent us, our families, tribes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and the city. The metallic pipecleaners represent our interconnections, creating a beautiful pattern of God's grace and mercy reaching far beyond our individual selves.

Platform Art

Tom Peck

Towers represent the corners of the rebuilt temple, constructed during Ezra's time. Golden bowls, part of the treasure provided to build the temple, define the structures. Yet, as the church calendar progresses, they also become monumental Advent candles, signalling our anticipation of Jesus, savior of the world.

Banners

Erin Hall

The places we are from carry a feeling, a texture. The familiarity of a handrail or a rocking chair, a tile floor, a crack in the sidewalk can take us back in time, give us a sense of place, or keep us grounded. This season members of our community, mostly our youth and teens, have shared the texture of their place with us in these harmonious banners made of graphite rubbings on paper. These banners themselves are a tiny crack into small places and things that matter to big meaningful lives—and remind us to reconnect, engage, and to be present and intentional in the spaces we inhabit.

Communion Set

Becca Ito

Procession

Leader Look! He is coming with the clouds.

All And every eye shall see him!

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Advent Reading

from Ezekiel 36:23-30

Reader I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them through your actions. When I do this marvelous thing the nations will clearly know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through my miracle in you before their very eyes.

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine.

- Leader: O children, your God comes for you. He is not like the other God's that must be manipulated and coerced. He seeks you out to heal you, to give you new life.
 - All: He himself has come to rescue us. He himself has come to make us his own. He himself has come to make us whole.

Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

All Child for us sinners, poor and in the manger, We would embrace thee, with love and awe; Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

words and music John F. Wade, c. 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Public Domain

Prayer of Adoration

Welcome

Prayer of Confession

Based on Isaiah 40; 42; Ezra 3

| Leader | We fear that God has forgotten us in the wilderness, in exile, in a pandemic. |
|--------|---|
| All | Have we dropped off your radar, God? We doubt that you notice us. So, we make up our minds to make our own way. May we lift our eyes to you and believe again that you are personally involved in our days. |
| Leader | Our Father has spoken to us in his Word to assure us of his love, to share himself so that we would trust in him. |
| All | But we would rather not follow your ways, or live in accordance with what is written. We mistrust that we can really get to know you from old pages. Our experience and insight feel much more relevant. Help us to see the short sightedness of our wisdom, and learn that you alone are trustworthy that in all that you have said to us, we will find fulfillment and life beyond what we can imagine. |
| Leader | The new that you offer doesn't seem that necessary, we think; the old ways were doing all right. |
| All | We confess that we don't want to live by faith, so we settle for the old ways we already know. Teach us to walk by faith not in what is seen and felt but what is unseen and to follow you into the unknown. |
| Leader | Our Father, in your mercy, hear our confession. |
| All | Jesus, in your mercy, do not leave us to ourselves. |
| Leader | Spirit, in your mercy, lead us in the way of eternal life. |

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Isaiah 40-43

| Leader | O church, how can you say the LORD doesn't see your troubles? O Redeemer, how can you claim, "God doesn't see what's happened to us; our plight is overlooked"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? |
|--------|---|
| All | The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He never gets weak or weary. No one can get their head around his understanding. |
| Leader | You who bring good news to Indy, go up on Crown Hill. You who bring good news to Downtown, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid. |
| All | "Here is our God!" The sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. He gathers his flock in his arms and carries them close to his heart. |
| Leader | So now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Church, he who formed you, Redeemer: |
| All | "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned." |
| Leader | "I have given my Son in exchange for you. My Son has gladly laid down his life for you." |
| All | It really is true; the Lord has done a new thing! He has made a way in the wilderness. |

Song in the Gospel

"O Savior of Our Fallen Race"

All
 O Savior of our fallen race,
 O Brightness of the Father's face,
 O Son who shared the Father's might
 Before the world knew day or night,
 O Jesus, very Light of light,
 Our constant star in sin's deep night:
 Now hear the prayers your people pray
 Throughout the world this holy day.

Remind us Lord of life and grace How once, to save our fallen race, You put our human vesture on And came to us as Mary's son. Today, as year by year its light; Brings to our world a promise bright, One precious truth outshines the sun: Salvation comes from you alone.

For from the Father's throne you came, His banished children to reclaim; And earth and sea and sky revere The love of Him who sent you here. And we are jubilant today, For you have washed our guilt away. O hear the glad new song we sing On this, the birth of Christ our King!

O Savior of our fallen race, The world will see your radiant face; For you who came to us before Will come again and all restore. Let songs of praise your name adorn, O Christ, Redeemer, virgin-born, Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

Christe Redemptor Omnium, Latin office hymn, circa 6th Century. music, Nathan Partain, 2014

Song in the Gospel

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

All It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, To touch their strings of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heav'n's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

> Still through the cloven skies, they come With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hov'ring wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds, The blesséd angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow. Look now! for glad and golden hours, Come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, By prophets seen of old, When with the ever circling years, Shall come the time foretold. When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace, their King, And the whole world send back the song, Which now the angels sing.

words Edmund H. Sears, 1849; music Richard S. Willis, 1850

Prayer of Dependence

Children's Worship

Children's Worship, for kids ages 3–5, is where children can begin to learn how to worship as a church family. Please check in your child before the service either in the back of the sanctuary or at the nursery desk. They will be dismissed right before the sermon, and we will bring them back into the sanctuary during communion. Parents must have their security tag when picking up their child in the sanctuary.

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture

Ezra 2:1-2, 64-70

Reader Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town, ² in company with Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah):

* * *

⁶⁴ The whole company numbered 42,360, ⁶⁵ besides their 7,337 male and female slaves; and they also had 200 male and female singers. ⁶⁶ They had 736 horses, 245 mules,
 ⁶⁷ 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.

⁶⁸ When they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site.
⁶⁹ According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments.

⁷⁰ The priests, the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the other people, and the rest of the Israelites settled in their towns.

Reader This is the word of the Lord. All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Todd Dawkins A People on the Move

Ezra 2:3-63

The list of the men of the people of Israel:

| the descendants of Parosh 2,172 | of Hashum223 |
|---|--|
| of Shephatiah | of Gibbar95 |
| of Araĥ775 | the men of Bethlehem123 |
| of Pahath-Moab (through the line of | of Netophah56 |
| Jeshua and Joab) | of Anathoth128 |
| of Elam | of Azmaveth42 |
| of Zattu | of Kiriath Jearim, Kephirah and Beeroth743 |
| of Zakkai760 | of Ramah and Geba621 |
| of Bani | of Mikmash122 |
| of Bebai | of Bethel and Ai223 |
| of Azgad 1,222 | of Nebo |
| of Adonikam666 | of Magbish |
| of Bigvai2,056 | of the other Elam 1,254 |
| of Adin454 | of Harim |
| of Ater (through Hezekiah)98 | of Lod, Hadid and Ono725 |
| of Bezai | of Jericho |
| of Jorah | of Senaah |
| The priests: | |
| the descendants of Jedaiah (through the | |

| | anto or occanari (unough the | |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| family of . | Jeshua) | of Pashhur 1,247 |
| of Immer | | of Harim 1,017 |
| | | |

The Levites:

| the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel (of the line of Hodaviah) | • 74 |
|---|------|
| The musicians: | |

the descendants of Asaph.....128

The gatekeepers of the temple:

The temple servants:

the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth, Keros, Siaha, Padon, Lebanah, Hagabah, Akkub, Hagab, Shalmai, Hanan, Giddel, Gahar, Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda, Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah, Besai, Asnah, Meunim, Nephusim, Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur, Bazluth, Mehida, Harsha, Barkos, Sisera, Temah, Neziah and Hatipha

The descendants of the servants of Solomon:

the descendants of Sotai, Hassophereth, Peruda, Jaala, Darkon, Giddel, Shephatiah, Hattil, Pokereth-Hazzebaim and Ami

The following came up from the towns of Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer, but they could not show that their families were descended from Israel:

The descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda......652

And from among the priests:

The descendants of Hobaiah, Hakkoz and Barzillai (a man who had married a daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name). These searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. The governor ordered them not to eat any of the most sacred food until there was a priest ministering with the Urim and Thummim.

Community Group Questions

- 1. How did you experience seeing and hearing the names of Ezra 2 as they were read? In what ways might the Lord be using this list of strange names and strange places to turn our hearts to consider the usefulness of scripture (cf. 2 Tim 3:15-17)?
- 2. The people of Ezra 2 were on the move because they have been moved ... their hearts had been moved to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem (1:5). How might the Lord be moving your hearts in this season to go and rebuild? Take some time as a group to share ways the Lord is moving your hearts to rebuild in areas such as relationship, career, family, reconciliation, faith, etc.
- 3. Ultimately, the question to ponder from this text is why does the author take the time to list these names? He could have simply said, "... and they went back," but he doesn't. Does this list have more to do with these people, or does it have more to do with God? Or both? Imagine what it would be like if you saw your family name on that list. How would you feel? Might there be a place in scripture where your own name is on a list like this? (cf. Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5; 13:8; 21:27.) If so, why is it there, how does this make you feel, and how does this speak to those hardest seasons of life?

Call to Communion

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

Redeemer welcomes to Communion all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel. We will be coming forward for the distribution of Communion. Please use the hand sanitizer. You will receive the bread into your hands and take a cup from the tray. Clear cups (located in the interior rings) contain grape juice. Red cups (exterior ring of tray) contain wine. Wait to eat the bread and drink the wine until we all do so together, once we are back in our seats. Children who have been interviewed by the elders are able to share in Communion.

Communion is a time of connection with the Lord Jesus and with each other. Feel free to sing with the band during Communion. The ministry of prayer is also a way we live together as a community of believers and seekers. Please take the time to pray on your own, or with someone else in the pews.

Prayers

Prayer for Guidance to Truth

God, I don't know how I feel about what I have heard today but I want to trust that you are good, that you are loving, and that you are just. I want to know if you are the true God. If you are there, would you guide my soul to the truest truth. I don't want to be tricked or believe a lie. I don't want to believe in something just to make me feel better. Please God, lead me to the truth.

Prayer of Belief and Repentance

Jesus, I believe that you are who you say you are: the Son of God and the savior of broken people like me. I need forgiveness. I need to be made new and to start over again. I now turn away from all I have been doing. I turn away from my self-centered life. I turn my whole heart toward you. I believe that when you were crucified, you took all of my evil and somehow you gave me all of your beauty. I invite your Holy Spirit to live in me. I do not want to live for myself any more. I want you to lead my life. I want to know you and to receive your love for me. Please teach me and protect me and guide me. I am yours. I ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of Doubt and Faith

God, I don't really believe all of this, but there is a part of my heart that knows there is truth and goodness here. I am confused by the fact that there are so many things that I don't understand or that make me angry about you. There are also so many things that fill my heart with hope and many things that draw me to you, and I want to put my trust in you. God, you say I can come to you and ask for anything, so if you are real, please give me the faith I need to believe. Give me the desire to continue to seek after you. Keep my heart from self-deception. Protect me from any evil misleading or binding spirits. Calm my fears. Soften my cynicism. Be patient with me, and if you are God, please don't let me go, but instead let me know that you are real. I have a little faith, help me in my doubt.

First Communion

2nd Service: Katherine and Winifred Edgell

Communion Hymn

"He's on His Way Down"

All For you who walk in darkness still relying on the Lord.
 Refusing to make your own light, or kindle your own torch.
 He's on his way down! He's on his way down!
 He's on his way down, to you.

Soon there will be a little child there at the virgin's breast. To save you he will wear your sin and then he'll die your death. He's on his way down! He's on his way down! He's on his way down, to you.

For you who prey upon the weak, who trample on the poor. Your cup of wrath is filling up. Your Judge is at the door. He's on his way down! He's on his way down! He's on his way down, to you.

The King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Prince of Peace, the Living Word, Ancient of Days, Author of Light, Emmanuel, Eternal Life, The Mighty God, The Counselor, The Promised One, The Warrior The Son of God, The Son of Man, O Jesus Christ, Our Savior.

O magnify the Lord with me, if he has giv'n you voice. "The Lord who Saves" will raise you up, let Earth and Heav'n rejoice! He's on his way down! He's on his way down! He's on his way down, to you.

Nathan Partain, 2011

Doxology

All Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Community Life

Advent Resources | redeemindy.org/advent

In this season of Advent be sure to check out our various resources online. There you will find resources from RedeemerKids, information about the Advent Prayer Guide, and links to stream Advent and Christmas music from Redeemer and Nathan Partain. (You can also scan the QR code below to listen. CDs are available to purchase from the welcome team.)



Holiday Grieving Group Wednesday, December 15 | Redeemer offices | 12:00 p.m.

Birthday Party for Jesus December 21 | 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday service times Christmas Eve | 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, December 26 | 10:00 a.m.

More information about these and other events can be found at our website redeemindy.org.

Closing Hymn

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

All

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping, vigil till the morning new. Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ, the Babe, was born for you! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Polish Carol, adt by Edith Reed, ca. 1925; tr. Polish Melody

Benediction

Contact Us

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New to Redeemer? info@redeemindy.org

Children, Students, and College / nextgen@redeemindy.org Sunday Classes and Discipleship / adultministry@redeemindy.org Counseling / counseling@newhopeindianapolis.org Deacon Team / deacons@redeemindy.org Giving / giving@redeemindy.org Global Missions / missions@redeemindy.org Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) / mops@redeemindy.org Redeemer Women / women@redeemindy.org Worship and Liturgical Arts / worship@redeemindy.org

> 2021 budget: \$2,487,554

year to date giving: \$1,975,892.25

Congregational Giving

| | \$ |
|----------------|------------------|
| December Total | \$ 211,385.53 |

Membership at Redeemer

Membership is meaningful in multiple ways. First, we believe that as Christians, it is a part of our calling to be active and engaged in the Church. When you become a member, you take public vows to confirm your faith in Christ and commit to his Church. These vows submit members to the leadership and discipline of the church. We submit ourselves to accountability just like in marriage, friendship, citizenship, and any other relationship or institution that we enter into.

Membership also allows you certain benefits. Members in good standing are able to vote on church matters. They elect elders, call pastors, and have a say in other church business.

To become a member at Redeemer you must take our Discovering Redeemer class and meet with an elder for an interview. You will take membership vows privately and then publicly before the church. To begin this process, contact Jen Maurer [jen.maurer@redeemindy.org].

Fountain Square Pres

In 2014, Fountain Square Presbyterian Church opened its doors. The first daughter church of Redeemer, Fountain Square ministers to, worships with, and cultivates Christ-centered community in the Fountain Square neighborhood of Indianapolis.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is part of a church planting movement in Indianapolis and we are earnestly working to fund the planting of another gospel community.

Good to See You Again.

You've been around, but there are so many ways to get plugged in that you're not sure where to start. How about starting here? Give us your name and email, check some boxes, and drop this in the offering plate.

FIRST & LAST NAME

EMAIL

I'D LIKE TO ... * Learn More About Redeemer Become a Member Join a Community Group Work with Global Missions Use my Artistic Talents Serve with Kids Serve with Students Greet on Sunday Mornings Make & Serve Food Join a Prayer Team Talk to Someone About Counseling Do Something Else:

*Go to www.redeemindy.org/ministries for a full list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions.

Nice to Meet You

We're glad you're here and we'd love to get to know you better. Please help us do that by filling out whatever information you are comfortable sharing below. Tear it off and put it in the offering plate, or bring it to the Welcome Table for a small gift! We'll be in touch.

I AM A...

🗌 1st/2nd-time Guest 🗌 Out-of-Town Guest 🗌 Regular Attendee 👘 Redeemer Member

FIRST & LAST NAME

☐ Male ☐ Female

Birthday _____

SPOUSE OR FRIEND

Birthday _____

CONTACT

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone

I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY!

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1505 N. Delaware St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 317.238.5487 www.redeemindy.org

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Classes 10:00 a.m.

Church Plants

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN

901 Shelby Street Indianapolis, IN 46203 303.408.9720 www.fountainsquarepres.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.