

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

All

**Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

Charles Wesley, 1744

Advent Reading

based on Revelation 1:9–18

Reader

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Call to Worship

based on Revelation 1:5-8

Leader To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—
to him be glory and power for ever and ever!
Amen.

People **“Look, he is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him,
and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.**

All Hear Jesus our Lord and God,
“I am the Alpha and the Omega,
who is, and who was, and who is to come,
the Almighty.”

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

All **Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing: news, glad tidings of a birth,
“Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to Earth.”**

**Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all!**

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley, 1744

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

based on Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Romans 1:23

Leader The LORD set his glory in the heavens
and in human beings, his image-bearers.
He made you a little lower than the angels,
crowning you with glory and honor.

All **We traded our glory in,
because we thought it wasn't good enough.
We don't want to reflect the LORD's glory like a mirror.
We want our own glory to shine like a flashing neon sign.**

Leader We pursue glory by cultivating what's on the surface.

All **We obsess over our image:
How we look, what we weigh, what we wear.
We can even have an image of not caring what our image is.
But whichever way, we focus on our own glory.**

Leader We pursue glory by cultivating success.

All **We boast in our wisdom,
by relying on how much we know and understand.
We boast in our strength,
by relying on our abilities and accomplishments.
We boast in our riches,
by relying on our wealth for happiness and security.**

Leader But let the one who boasts, boast about this:

All **That we know the LORD, because he has made himself known to us.
He exercises kindness and justice—that's what he delights in.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

based on Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:14; Isaiah 53:2, 12

Leader Jesus is God's own well-loved Son, the spitting image of his Father:
The radiance of his glory,
the exact representation of his nature.

All **In him all things were created:
From stars to starfish
and quasars to quarks.
The glory of God's world came through him and for him.**

Leader He took on flesh and tabernacled among us.

All **We have seen his glory,
the glory of one who's full of grace and truth,
the glory of the Son who comes from the Father.**

Leader Yet there was nothing on the surface to make him beautiful,
no visible glory to attract us to him.

All **But when the hour of his glory came,
he poured out his life to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.**

Leader He bore the sin of many—

All **He bore our sin!
We are forgiven. Amen! Hallelujah!**

Song in the Gospel

“The Lord is King”

All

The season of a royal birth, when God the Infant comes to earth;
To pay the price for all our sin, O let His advent now begin!
Sing his praise, sing his praise, Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise, all your days, all your days.

We long to hear, we long to see, the Prophet who will set us free.
The Child for whom we all await, His name is pure, His name is great!
Sing his praise, sing his praise, Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise, all your days, all your days.

So now fulfill what You began, O Son of God, O Son of Man;
Repentant hearts You won't condemn; ye faithful, come to Bethlehem!
Sing his praise, sing his praise, Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise, all your days, all your days.

And from the manger to the cross; You give us life, you take our loss.
You come to save, You come to love; incarnate God from heav'n above!
Sing his praise, sing his praise, Lord of lords, Ancient of Days;
Sing his praise, sing his praise, all your days, all your days.

music: Nathan Partain, 2003; verses: Tom Peck, 2019

Song in the Gospel

“Tell Out My Soul”

All

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice.
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done.
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers, dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord,
To children's children and forever more.

words: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Hope Publishing, 1962; music: Holly Dutton, 2001

Prayer of Dependence

Offering of Gifts and Service

Offertory Hymn

“Simeon’s Song”

Ensemble

Anticipating this all of my life, because of the promise You gave me,
Now I am old, my life draws to a close, and yet I still look to You.
Into the temple a family arrives, and as I take up the Baby,
From deep within me, my spirit awakes; I know what I’m saying is true:

That my eyes have now seen Your salvation, you have prepared it for all men to see;
It’s the light of Your revelation, a gift You have lovingly given to me.

Here in the temple my vigil goes on, waiting for Your consolation,
All my devotion is centered on You, seeking the One who will heal.
With trembling hands I reach out for the Child, given without hesitation,
Almost as if someone else says the words, the truth of Your love I reveal:

That my eyes have now seen Your salvation, you have prepared it for sinners like me;
It’s the light of Your revelation, a gift I have waited a lifetime to see.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in peace, though your life will be grievous,
Give me a moment to gather my words . . . I have waited so long.
This Child is destined to save us from sin—He, the messiah of promise;
Hearts will be opened and thoughts be revealed, showing the right and the wrong.

And my eyes have now seen Your salvation, you have prepared it for all men to see;
It’s the light of Your revelation, a gift You have lovingly given to me.

So now I can depart in peace, Lord,
Now I can depart in peace.

Tom Peck, 2004

Children’s Worship is for ages 3 through kindergarten and is a time for children to worship through song, Bible stories, and response (art or story play). Children will return to the sanctuary before communion. Parents, please pick them up in the back of the sanctuary at that time. Visitors are welcome, and parents are always invited to attend with their children.

Scripture

Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Reader

²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

...

¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Reader
People

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

Sermon

Charles Anderson
Gaze on Glory

Notes

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Community Group Questions

- 1) *The Israelites were afraid of coming too close to Moses because his face was unnaturally shining. But even more deeply, they were afraid because they saw the connection that his time with the Lord was changing him, making him different. How are we sometimes afraid that too much proximity to God will change us and make us different?*
- 2) *Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. What does it mean for us to contemplate the Lord's glory? (You might want to re-read Exodus 34:1-7 on the Lord's glory as discussed in last week's sermon.) How can you cultivate practices of contemplating his glory individually and corporately?*
- 3) *The effect of contemplating the Lord's glory is the Spirit transforming us more and more into the image of Jesus, so that our glory actually increases. It seems pretty astounding even to write! Think about the particular way that God has made you and is working in your life. What would it look like over the next three months if, in very concrete ways, you were being transformed into the image of Jesus?*

Children's Questions:

Moses spent lots of time with God, and it made him different, even to the point of his face shining. How are you afraid that God might make you different from your friends, your classmates, your family? Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.

⁴ The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They can't see the light of the good news that makes Christ's glory clear. Christ is the likeness of God.⁵ The message we preach is not about ourselves. Our message is about Jesus Christ. We say that he is Lord. And we say that we serve you because of Jesus.⁶ God said, "Let light shine out of darkness." (Genesis 1:3) He made his light shine in our hearts. His light gives us the light to know God's glory. His glory is shown in the face of Christ.

Why do these verses say spending time with God is worth it? What are some good ways that God wants to change you to look like Jesus?

Call to Communion and Prayer

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

Redeemer welcomes 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 to receive Communion with us. We will be coming forward for the distribution of Communion. Please eat the bread privately, and then drink the cup together with us after everyone has returned to their seats. Clear cups (located in the interior rings) contain grape juice. Red cups (exterior ring of tray) contain wine. Children who have been interviewed by the elders are able to partake of Communion.

The ministry of prayer is one of the ways we live together as a community of believers and seekers. During Communion, members of our prayer team are available at the front of the sanctuary. It would be our privilege to pray with you as we walk together through the joys and struggles of life. We also encourage you to pray with one another in the pews during this time of movement in our service.

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.

Song of Celebration

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Ensemble

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

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 newborn King.

Though an Infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father’s throne,
Gather all the nations to Him; every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

words: James Montgomery, 1816; music: Tom Peck, 2017

Song of Celebration

“Savior of the Nations”

Ensemble

Savior of the nations, come, show yourself, the virgin’s son.
Marvel, heaven; wonder, earth; that our God chose such a birth.

Not by human power or seed did the woman’s womb conceive;
Only by the Spirit’s breath was the Word of God made flesh.

Mary then was found with child, still a virgin, chaste and mild.
God had favored her with grace to receive the Prince of Peace.

Christ laid down his majesty, passed through dark Gethsemane.
Though he left his Father’s home, Christ now sits on God’s own throne.

Christ in glory intercede for your creature’s suff’ring need.
Let your resurrecting power soon complete the vict’ry hour.

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come.

words: Ambrose, 4th., and Martin Luther, 1523; tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984
music: Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524; arr. Bruce Benedict 2009 Cardiphonia Music

Life as Worship

Christmas Services

Introducing Sam Haist

Valediction

based on Luke 1

Leader

“We praise you Lord, the God of Israel,
because you have visited and redeemed us, your people.

All

**You have sent a mighty Savior
from the royal line of your servant David,
just as you promised through your holy prophets long ago.**

Leader

We have been rescued from our enemies
so we can serve you, God—without fear,
in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.

All

**Because of your tender mercy, O Lord,
the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace.”**

Departing Hymn

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

All

**Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here!
Listen to our praises, to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!**

**Shepherds on the hillside heard the angels sing:
Glory, honor, praises to the infant King.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!**

**In the town they found Him; Son of Mary mild.
Sleeping in a manger was the Holy Child.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!**

**Wise Men sought and found Him, treasures did they bring;
Bowing down they worshiped Christ, the King of Kings
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!**

Traditional French Carol

Benediction

Introducing Sam Haist, Pastor of Formation



We are excited to announce that Redeemer's session has called Sam Haist to serve as Pastor of Formation. Sam is a kind and courageous leader who loves Jesus and people and is eager to join in on what God is doing here.

Sam currently serves as the Associate Pastor at South City Church in St. Louis—a beautiful, grace-filled community where he and his wife Katelyn have loved and labored for almost a decade. Sam and Katelyn moved to St. Louis in 2010 for him to study at Covenant Seminary, and he joined staff at South City in 2014. For the last 8 years, Katelyn has taught first and second grade at South City Community School, and together, they keep busy raising three young daughters: Eden, Chloe, and Norah.

As Pastor of Formation, Sam will lead Redeemer in how we are being formed in brokenness toward wholeness in Christ. He will oversee the big picture for what formation looks like and how it happens as we are connected to Jesus through the gospel. He will work with areas like community groups, leadership development, Sunday school, and Next Generation ministries.

Thank you to the search team of Sajan George, Craig Lotz, Carolyn McDonnell, Nikki Miller, and Kyle Ragsdale, who helped in the final stages. They saw in Sam someone who loves the gospel and will help lead us in our core values; a student of Scripture who helps people apply it in their lives; an optimistic encourager who is quick to listen; and a winsome and gentle pastor with the courage to say hard things. An elder at South City described Sam as someone “people feel comfortable around being broken.” Mike Higgins, his senior pastor, told us that in sending us Sam, he is sending us his right arm.

The hope is that the Haists will move to Indianapolis in late January/early February. Please pray in thanksgiving for God bringing Sam and Redeemer together and for the unity in the search team and session in the process. Please pray for the Haists' transition as they sell their house, say goodbye to friends, and get ready for their move to Indianapolis.

We look forward to you getting to meet Sam and Katelyn for yourself!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

2 Services 4pm | 6:30pm

DECEMBER 29

1 Service 10am

Upcoming Events

New Advent Album Available: Online and at the Welcome Table

We are excited to announce new music for Advent from Nathan Partain, Director of Worship and Culture at Redeemer. This is a collection of songs written over the years and sung in our worship services, some congregational and some as offertories, during past Advent seasons. This record was made with lots of help from some of the musicians, designers, and artists in the Redeemer community (and beyond), and we hope it is a blessing this Advent season! Available now to stream and purchase online [nathanpartain.com], and physical copies are available at the Welcome Table.

Take Part in Advent Art

In light of this year's Advent art theme focusing on the Tabernacle, each of the four Sundays of Advent, immediately following second service, the congregation is invited to come and contribute to an ongoing art piece. Nick Dodge will be organizing volunteers each Sunday at the back of the sanctuary. No art skills required!

The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference - Registration

The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference is coming to Indianapolis this summer, June 11-13. This is a three day conference with women from around the world, studying the book of James and worshipping. Redeemer Women has a discount code to help with the cost. On the conference website, please choose the individual registration option, and enter the discount code (REDEEMINDY) at the bottom of the first page, which will give \$25 off. Email [women@redeemindy.org] if you are interested in opportunities to gather with other Redeemer Women going to the conference.

Living with secret addictions and habits that you can't break out of?

Redeemer's counseling service, New Hope Counseling, is here to assist you [newhopeindianapolis.org]. Email [counseling@newhopeindianapolis.org] and you'll be connected with the right counselor for you. Placement may take 1-2 weeks. Our team sees children, teens, couples, families, and individual clients. Partial scholarships available if needed.

Contact Us

Charles Anderson Lead Pastor / charles@redeemindy.org

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Questions? info@redeemindy.org

Children, Students, and College / nextgen@redeemindy.org

Sunday Classes and Discipleship / adultministry@redeemindy.org

Counseling / counseling@newhopeindianapolis.org

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Giving / giving@redeemindy.org

Global Missions / missions@redeemindy.org

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) / mops@redeemindy.org

Redeemer Women / women@redeemindy.org

Worship, Hospitality, and Liturgical Arts / worship@redeemindy.org

year to date giving:
\$ 1,802,713.90



2019 budget:
\$2,016,840.00

Congregational Giving

December 8th	\$	36,380.54
December Total	\$	61,923.93
December Budget	\$	168,070.00

Interested in giving online through your mobile device? Download the *Tithe.ly Church App* by scanning this QR code and following the instructions to set up an account.

