

# Opening Hymn

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

*All*

**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.**

*words and music: John F. Wade, 1743; trans.: Frederick Oakeley, 1841*

## Advent Reading

*based on 1 Corinthians 15:35-57*

*Reader*

Someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed. Similarly there are different kinds of flesh—one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

## Call to Worship

*Leader* But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret.  
We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!  
It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown.  
For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever.  
And we who are living will also be transformed.  
For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die;  
our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die,  
this Scripture will be fulfilled:

*All* **“Death is swallowed up in victory.  
O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”**

*Leader* Let us give profound thanks to God!  
For he gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Hymn

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

*All* **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.**

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

**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.**

*words and music: John F. Wade, 1743; trans.: Frederick Oakeley, 1841*

# 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

*“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*

*All*

**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.**

**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.**

**“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;  
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.**

**Now, to the Lord, sing praises all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

*English carol, 18th century*

## Song in the Gospel

*“Thou Who Was Rich”*

*All*

**Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor.**

**Thou who are God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,  
Heav’nward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who are God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man.**

**Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
<ake us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.**

*words: Frank Houghton; music: French Carol Melody; arr.: Charles Kitson, 1930*

## Prayer of Dependence

## Offering of Gifts and Service

## End of Year Giving Update

*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 40:16-38*

*Reader*

<sup>16</sup> This Moses did; according to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did. <sup>17</sup> In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. <sup>18</sup> Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. <sup>19</sup> And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>20</sup> He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. <sup>21</sup> And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>22</sup> He put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil, <sup>23</sup> and arranged the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>24</sup> He put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, <sup>25</sup> and set up the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>26</sup> He put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil, <sup>27</sup> and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>28</sup> He put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle. <sup>29</sup> And he set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>30</sup> He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, <sup>31</sup> with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet. <sup>32</sup> When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses. <sup>33</sup> And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.

<sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup> Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup> But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup> For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

*Reader*  
*People*

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

## Sermon

*Todd Dawkins*

Cloudy with the Certainty of Glory

# Notes

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## Community Group Questions

- 1) *The entire book of Exodus is driving to answer one big question: “Will God really be with us?” The answer that we get from this passage is that, yes, God is with us. How might we respond to this positively? Why? How might we respond to the negatively? Why? What keeps us from wanting the presence of God, questioning the presence of God, or perhaps not even giving a rip about it at all?*
- 2) *Read vv. 36–38. Consider what it must have been like to follow God in those days. Why might the people have liked this process? Why might the people have not liked this process? In what ways can you relate the process of following God in those days to how we follow God today?*
- 3) *The cloud of the Lord was in sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys. What are the best ways that you manage to keep God’s glory in sight both individually and corporately throughout all your journeys? Why might you want to/need to do this?*
- 4) *Perhaps the most effective means of motivation for us to keep God’s glory in sight is found in how God ultimately answers the cliffhanger conundrum seen in v. 35. How do we remind ourselves of this answer and why is this wonderful motivation?*

### *Children’s Questions:*

- 1) *What did the cloud being with the people have to do with the glory of the Lord?*
- 2) *Imagine what it would have been like to see the cloud covering the tent of meeting. Describe how you would have felt if you had been there, knowing that God was there!*
- 3) *Now, grab a piece of paper and draw a picture of the glory of the Lord. After you are done, bring your picture back to the large group and explain to them what you have drawn and why you have drawn it that way. Then, tell the adults in the group why it was so good for the Lord to be with the people then and why it’s so good for the Lord to be with us today.*



# 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

*"Gathered Round Your Table"*

*Ensemble*

Gathered 'round your table on this holy eve,  
Viewing Bethlehem's stable, we rejoice and grieve:  
Joy to see you lying in your manger bed,  
Weep to see you dying in our sinful stead.

Prince of Glory, gracing heav'n ere time began,  
Now for us embracing death as Son of Man.  
By your birth so lovely, by your love so true,  
By your cross, most holy Lord, we worship you.

Bethlehem's incarnation, Calvary's bitter cross,  
Wrought for us salvation by your pain and loss.  
Now we fall before you in this holy place;  
Prostrate, we adore you for your gift of grace.

With profoundest wonder, we your body take,  
Laid in manger yonder, broken for our sake.  
Hushed in adoration, we approach the cup,  
Beth'lem's pure oblation freely offered up.

Christmas babe so tender, Lamb who bore our blame,  
How shall sinners render praises due your name?  
Do your own good pleasure in the lives we bring;  
In your ransomed treasure, reign forever King.

*words: Margaret Clarkson, 1986; music: Nathan Partain, 2000*

# Song of Celebration

*“All Praise to Thee”*

*Ensemble*

All praise to thee, Eternal Lord,  
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;  
Choosing a manger for thy throne,  
While worlds on worlds are thine alone.  
Once did the skies before thee bow;  
A virgin’s arms contain thee now  
While angels, who in thee rejoice,  
Now listen for thine infant voice.

Thou comest in the darksome night  
To make us children of the light;  
To make us, in the realms divine,  
Like thine own angels ’round thee, shine.  
All this for us thy love hath done;  
By this to thee our love is won;  
For this we tune our cheerful lays  
And sing our thanks in ceaseless praise.

All praise to thee, Eternal Lord,  
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;  
Choosing a manger for thy throne,  
While worlds on worlds are thine alone.  
Once did the skies before thee bow;  
A virgin’s arms contain thee now  
While angels, who in thee rejoice,  
Now listen for thine infant voice.

*words: Martin Luther, 1524; trans: Sabbath Hymn Book, 1858; music: Nathan Partain, 2002*

## Life as Worship

*Christmas Services*

*End of Sunday Classes*

# Valediction

*based on 1 Corinthians 15:58*

*Leader*

The Lord has given us victory over sin and death  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters,  
be strong and immovable.

Always work enthusiastically for the Lord.

*All*

**For we know that nothing we do for the Lord is ever useless.**

# Departing Hymn

*“Canticle of the Turning”*

*All*

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

**From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r,  
Not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears,  
Ev’ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
For the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev’ry mouth be fed,  
For the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,  
You work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past,  
To the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
And to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
For the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

*words and arr.: Rory Cooney, 1990; from the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55; music: trad Irish tune*

## Benediction



SO MANY REASONS TO BE  
*thankful*

*Great are the works of the LORD;  
 they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
 Psalm 111:2*

Psalm 111 invites us to reflect on what God has done so that we will more deeply delight in him. As the year ends, how have we seen God at work in Redeemer in 2019?

- More care teams than ever are walking with members through hard times. Why does that happen? The *transforming safety of the gospel* enables us to ask for help and trust that Jesus will work in our brokenness.
- Redeemer Women held their first Saturday Seminary, where Dr. Nicholas Piotrowski taught on the storyline of the Bible to help women grow in holding to the *life-giving authority of Scripture*.
- The liturgical arts team collaborated and supported each other as they created installations that lead us into *thoughtful, expectant worship*.
- More people than ever asked to join a community group or were trained to lead one. They're hungry for *meaningful relationships in community* to grow in their faith.
- We *created beauty where we are* during Mercy Month, putting together 55 birthday gift bags for the single moms of Sweetwater Ministry to celebrate with their kids.
- Christianity Explored gathered people at Shoefly Pub for *respectful evangelism*, talking about who Jesus is and what that means for our lives.
- Regular church prayer meetings express how we want to *desperately depend on Jesus*.

More people are being connected to Jesus in a deeper way, and he really is bringing wholeness, as halting and halfway as it is, in our lives and the city. We invite you to take time this week to pray through Psalm 111 and praise God for how you see him at work in your life and in our church.

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# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

2 Services 4pm | 6:30pm

## DECEMBER 29

1 Service 10am

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## Upcoming Events

### Carols in the Underground

Next Sunday, you're invited to gather in the Underground after the service. We'll be singing traditional Christmas carols from the Salvation Army hymn book. Do you have an instrument you want an excuse to play? You should come. Does someone in your home have an instrument you want them to play? You should tell them to come. Want to sing along and help us make a joyful noise? Come! Contact Shawn Collins [shawn.collins@alumni.purdue.edu] with any questions.

### Redeemer Women Bible Studies – LOOKING AHEAD

Redeemer Women will study the book of Judges in winter/spring 2020. Enrollment is Sunday, 12/29 through Sunday 1/12. You can sign up online or in the courtyard foyer on Sunday, 1/5 and at the Ministry Fair Sunday, 1/12. To ensure good group dynamics, each group will have a size limit. Women will be assigned in the order of sign-up. Studies will generally start the week of 1/19 and conclude by the end of May. If you have any questions, email [women@redeemindy.org].

### 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.

### End of Year Giving

Thank you for your generosity throughout this year! Please know that if you are considering a year-end gift, all donations need to be made by 12/31—whether online [redeemindy.org/give], postmarked, or hand delivered. The church office will be open until 4pm on 12/31. Redeemer's ministry is able to impact the city because of your generosity and we are so thankful for your giving. Please contact [giving@redeemindy.org] with any giving questions.

### 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.



# Contact Us

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Worship, Hospitality, and Liturgical Arts / [worship@redeemindy.org](mailto:worship@redeemindy.org)

year to date giving:

\$ 1,862,092.21

2019 budget:

\$2,016,840.00

## Congregational Giving

December 15th .....	\$	59,378.31
December Total .....	\$	121,302.24
December Budget .....	\$	168,070.00

Interested in giving online  
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and following the instructions  
to set up an account.

