



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



March 21st, 2021

Explanation of Cover Art

“These lyrics from O Holy Night have been inspiring the final layers of this scene, “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.” I’ve been reflecting about the story of hope coming to the world through Christ in light, shadow, color and paint vibes. This scene speaks that story to me.” - Alicia Zanoni Lawrence

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.

Explanation of Vestments

By Hidi Gardner

God hears us when we cry out to him. Our tears are important enough to God that he collects them (Psalm 56:8). Tears are a physical representation of our sorrows. Our tears matter to God because we are his beloved treasure.

(from a conversation with my kids)

“Mommy, does God hear me?”

“Yes, he hears you.”

“So he knows when I’m sad? Does he hear me cry?”

“Yes, he always hears you. He hears you when you’re happy and when you’re sad. He loves you so very much. He treasures you. He even collects your tears when you cry.”

“He collects my tears? Why?”

“Why do you collect things? Why do you save them?”

“I save things that are important to me.”

“God collects your tears because you are important to him.”

Welcome

Call to Worship

Based on John 1

Leader God's word is powerful!

All **By God's word he created the universe,
from giant stars to single cells.
He is the author of the unsearchable wonder
and complexity of the world.
The overwhelming hugeness and intricacy of the universe
came about when he spoke it into existence.**

Leader God's word is gracious!

All **God promised to redeem us —
a broken people with hearts postured against our loving Father.
His word became flesh in Jesus,
who died to fulfill this promise.
His powerful word has brought us grace upon grace.**

Leader Let's sing in awe of a powerful and gracious God!

Opening Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

All

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

words and arr. Stuart K. Hine, 1949; renewed 1981, Manna Music, Inc.

Prayer of Adoration and Preparation

Prayer of Confession

Based on Psalm 139:23-24; Romans 8:9-17; James 4:1-2

Leader Children of God, in this season of Lent,
let us ask the Lord to search us and know our hearts.

All **Father, uncover what is offensive in us,
so that you may lead us in the path of everlasting life.**

Leader We have an obligation to live according to the Spirit.

All **Yet, we can see how we live according to the flesh:
When a problem comes up, our first thought is, "How do I solve this?"
rather than bringing it to God and seeking him.
We act like there's nothing more than this world,
so we quarrel and scheme to get what's ours.**

Leader Because we live by the flesh, we live in fear.

All **Fear that we'll be exposed and thus rejected,
Fear that we won't be loved, that we can't be loved,
Fear that we're on our own, abandoned as orphans,
Fear that our good won't measure up,
Fear that our wrong will find us out.**

Leader Spirit of God, lead us through confession and repentance,
away from the flesh and fear,
to the holy and kind heart of our Father.

Lenten Hymn

“Bring Christ Your Broken Life”

All

**Bring him your ev’ry care, if great or small –
Whatever troubles you, O bring it all!
Bring him the haunting fears, the nameless dread,
Your heart he will relieve, and lift up your head.**

words Thomas Chisholm, 1935; music Joseph N. Partain, 2009

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Psalm 103:13-14; Romans 1:4; 8:1-17; Luke 4:1; Hebrews 9:14

Leader Children of God, hear the gracious heart of your Father:

All **Our Father shows tender compassion to us his children,
because he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.**

Leader So, he sent his Son to take on flesh, like us in every way, for our sin.

All **Full of the Spirit,
our older brother Jesus lived our life for us.
Through the Spirit,
he offered himself as the sacrifice in our place.
In the Spirit,
God raised him from the dead to power and authority.**

Leader Because you are in Christ, this very same Spirit now lives in you!

All **The Spirit brought us into the family.
He confirms to us, “Yes, you are God’s adopted child.
You really do belong here.”**

Leader His Spirit gives us life now to put to death the misdeeds of the body.

All **And his Spirit will raise our bodies to give us everlasting life.**

Song in the Gospel

“A Child of God”

All **I’m a child of God, and love is my freedom;
I can ask anything of my Father the King.
I’m an heir, I’m adopted, and my brother is Jesus;
I’m a child of God, and my soul is at peace.**

Nathan Partain, 2011

Song in the Gospel

“Just As I Am”

All

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb I come.
Just as I am, and waiting not, to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about, confused, conflicted, full of doubts,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb I come.
Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all in Thee I need to find, O Lamb I come.**

**Just as I am I come,
Receiving all you’ve done
And covered in your blood,
I’m held within your love.**

**Just as I am, Thy love unknown, hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine and Thine alone, O Lamb I come.
Just as I am, Thou will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb I come.**

**Just as I am I come,
Receiving all you’ve done
And covered in your blood,
I’m held within your love.**

**You’ve won for me full forgiveness, just as I am O Lamb I come.
Set free from fear, I can confess, just as I am O Lamb I come.
I leave my rags of righteousness, just as I am O Lamb I come.
For now I wear your Holiness, just as I am O Lamb I come.**

**Just as I am I come,
Receiving all you’ve done
And covered in your blood,
I’m held within your love.**

words: Charlotte Elliott, 1835/alt.lyrics: Nathan Partain, 2011; music: Nathan Partain, 2011

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture

Romans 8:12-14

Reader

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Charles Anderson

Fighting Sin by the Spirit with Scripture

Community Group Questions

- 1) What are ineffective ways of fighting sin that you've tried or are trying? What makes them ineffective?
- 2) Why do the Spirit and Scripture go together? You can look at these passages to help you consider your answer: 2 Timothy 2:15 and John 15:26, 1 John 5:6; Ephesians 6:17 and John 6:63; Ephesians 5:25 and Titus 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 and James 1:21.
- 3) How has the Spirit used Scripture in your life to help, comfort, or challenge you in your fight against sin? Do you have specific examples? What concepts or practices have you found particularly helpful? Maybe it's memorizing and meditating on Scripture, or praying Scripture, or perhaps specific themes or passages have helped you.

Call to Communion

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 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 (in a socially distanced way).

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.

Closing Hymn

“Abide with Me”

All

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.**

**Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.**

**I need thy presence ev’ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav’n’s morning breaks and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.**

words Henry F. Lyte, 1847; music Nathan Partain 2001

Community Life

Good Friday, April 2nd

Two evening services at 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Easter, April 4th

Services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.

Mini-Conference with Rebecca McLaughlin, April 11th

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.**

Benediction

Contact Us

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year to date giving:
\$ 377,747.44

2021 budget:
\$ 2,487,554

Congregational Giving

Mar 14 th	\$	\$33,020.65
Mar Total	\$	\$113,166.93
Mar Budget	\$	\$207,296.17

