



Advent

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
10 December 2023

Cover Art

Caleb Keitt and Derek Bender, *With his Grace*, 2023

Procession Art

Barb Knuckles, Susan Jones, Tom Peck, and Marcia Jones, 2023

Jesus was incarnate at the hidden level of cells and DNA. The four stands are made from a fallen sycamore branch, with the processed symbols of life sprouting from the dead “stumps”. Week One is blood cells, Week Two is nerve and skin cells, Week Three is bone and muscle cells and Week Four is ultrasound images. The four “trees” also allude to the Body of Christ, made up of many parts, with Christ as the Head.

Banners

Karyl Boring, *Dwelling as We Wait*, 2023

Josie Thompson with Maggie Lotz, Merri Goebel, Moriah Taft, Sam Ueltschi, Meghan Smith, and Quinton Thompson, 2023

Columns

Josie Thompson with Maggie Lotz, Merri Goebel, Moriah Taft, Sam Ueltschi, Meghan Smith, and Quinton Thompson, 2023

South Window

Caleb Keitt and Derek Bender with Mendy & Emma Foster and Trisha McHugh, *In Your Mercy*, 2023

God created humans for a purpose, and he designed us in a specific way with cells, organs, and organ systems that generally function in one particular way. One of those organ systems, our largest one, is our skin. It is easy to think that our skin—that thing that sometimes hides our eyeballs and smiles—is the one thing that differentiates one person from another, but actually, our skin has so much in common.

Our skin comprises three main layers, with the outmost layer having five layers. This is our epidermis—which showcases skin color and pimples—where big cells constantly create smaller cells that squeeze their way to the surface to eventually become dust. This helped inform the structure of the window curtain. From bottom to top, the lattice is organized with the youngest hands in blue, the youngest eyes in pink, the teen and middle-aged hands in brown, the oldest eyes in blue, and finally, the oldest hands in pink.

This piece is made of you. Through God’s providence, your hands, eyeballs, and stories are woven and printed on this tapestry.

Communion Set

Emily Johnston

One can find a few meanings from this piece’s colors. The light and dark clay symbolizes how, during birth, the baby emerges from the dark in the womb and into the light outside. It also illustrates the belief that Jesus was the light coming into the dark world. The swirl pattern shows the movement of the dark when lightened. The blue color is in honor of Mary, who delivered Jesus.

The cup is about the size of a newborn’s head, the chalice is the size of the average placenta, and the opening of the pitcher is 10cm. The unglazed outside is a nod to our birthday suits.

Procession

from Hebrews 10:4-7, 10

Reader

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”

All

**By that will,
we have been made holy
through Jesus’ sacrifice of his body
once for all.**

Call to Worship

from Luke 1:46-55

Leader

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call her blessed.

All

**For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for us.
He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.**

Leader

His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

All

**He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.
For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.**

Opening 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

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Leader The eternal Son of God took on flesh and blood, with a real body and soul,
and was born as Jesus, fully divine and fully human.

All **We imagine a Jesus who isn't really like us:
He floats above the ground by a few inches
and is too divine to really be human.**

Leader Jesus matured and got stronger, bigger, wiser;
he grew in favor with God and people.

All **We don't want process—we want results now.
It's hard to grow in our faith; it's slow.
We get discouraged and quit trying.
Sanctification must be for other people, not us.**

Leader Without a Jesus who's really human,
we act as if he's too far away to relate to us.

All **Jesus can't understand what I'm struggling with—
What does he know about it?
Maybe he's too exalted to care about what gets me excited,
or what keeps me up at night worried.
We decide things on our own, we don't depend on Jesus,
we take matters into our own hands.
We live functionally as if we don't have a savior.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

based on Isaiah 53; Hebrews 2; 4

Leader

The Son of God became like us in every way,
in order to save us, to rescue us,
so that he could make atonement for our sins.

All

**Because he's really human, Jesus can be our substitute;
he takes our place and bears our sin.**

Leader

Jesus, you know what it's like to be discouraged or tired,
curious, excited, upset, angry,
even to suffer when you're tempted.
Praise God, that through the whole of your life,
you trusted your Father and did not sin.

All

**Help us when we're tempted:
Give us the power of your Spirit to say yes to our Father
who loves us, controls all things, and will keep his promises.**

Leader

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,

All

**So that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help us in our time of need.**

Song in the Gospel

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

All

**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 (c) music: Enchiridia,
Erfurt, 1524; arr. Bruce Benedict (c) 2009 Cardiphonia Music*

Song in the Gospel

“Bring your Sick”

All

**Bring your sick, your restless fevered, filled with anxious shaking moans
Who would kill for some relief from, all the itching in their bones
Who still search for some elixir, that could ease their gasping breath
Some sweet drink to drive the poison, from the writhing in their head**

**Bring your wounded, all your broken, who can't stand up on their own
Who are weak beyond dignity, who will never become strong
They will only need more helping, each investment is a loss
Yes, bring all those who could never, return any of their cost**

**Jesus Christ, says “Gather to me, all you lost, you poor, you dead!
I’m your sacrifice, your ransom, I was given in your stead.
I have found you, freed you, healed you, my compassion you can trust
I redeem the undeserving, I am generous with my love.**

**Bring your fearful, bring your cowards, bring your hiding cornered strays.
Those who fly at every shadow, those who run without a chase.
Bring the cursed, abused, neglected, who have lived their lives in caves,
Who distrust the light as darkness, while they long to be embrace.**

**Jesus Christ, says “Gather to me, all you lost, you poor, you dead!
I’m your sacrifice, your ransom, I was given in your stead.
I have found you, freed you, healed you, my compassion you can trust
I redeem the undeserving, I am generous with my love.**

**Bring your bound, the souls imprisoned, bullied by the threat of pain,
Who have tried and tried for freedom, but have always failed escape.
Those who live with their aggressor, whip’ring doubts into their ear,
Who dare not hope on a savior, lest they be crushed by despair**

**Jesus Christ, says “Gather to me, all you lost, you poor, you dead!
I’m your sacrifice, your ransom, I was given in your stead.
I have found you, freed you, healed you, my compassion you can trust
I redeem the undeserving, I am generous with my love.**

Nathan Partain, 2014

Prayer of Dependence

Katie Pourcho and Barb Knuckles

Children's Worship + Nursery

Redeemer Kids' mission is to partner with parents to help kids develop a lifetime relationship with Jesus. We love having children of any age join us in the worship service and also provide options to families that can engage young children wherever they are developmentally.

The Nursery welcomes children ages 0-3.

Children's Worship welcomes kids ages 4-Kindergarten. We are glad to extend this age and make additional accommodations on a case by case basis (e-mail emily@redeemindy.org.)

You are welcome to drop your children off at any point. Kids attending Children's Worship must be picked up by the end of communion. Nursery and Children's Worship spaces are located through the doors on the front left of the sanctuary.

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Reader

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Reader
People

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

Sermon

Ben Hein

It is Good to be Human

Additional Texts

Hebrews 2:11-14

“So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters...

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity...”

The Westminster Larger Catechism, Questions 46-47

What was the estate of Christ’s humiliation?

The estate of Christ’s humiliation was that low condition, wherein he for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection. (Philemon 2:6-8; Luke 1:31; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Acts 2:24)

How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fulness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.

Kelly Kopic, You’re Only Human

The doctrine that the Word became flesh means that God himself affirms our flesh as good, and that affirmation liberates us from apologizing for our creaturely limitations. If we believe that Jesus, who was free from all sin, was fully human, then this means that he considered creaturely restrictions to be part of his good creation and not evil at all. It means that we must not apologize for what the Son of God freely embraces.

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.

Prayer

If you would like personal prayer during this time you can meet with today's prayer leaders Katie Pourcho and Barb Knuckles located in the back.

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

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

All

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down
Unbar the way to heavens crown.**

**O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night**

**Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh, Come lead us, with mighty hand
Through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring
Ever to you, our Savior King;
There shall we laud you and adore
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.**

words from a German spiritual song; tr. Martin L. Seltz music Nathan Partain, 2003, UBP

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

Dec. 22
9am-12pm

REGISTER
Today

RK Christmas Camp Parents are invited to drop off their kids ages 4 years-old to 5th grade for a morning of games, crafts, lunch, and Bible story as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of King Jesus. *And just like at Kid's Club, we need a great team of student and adult volunteers to make it happen. Use the correct QR code here to sign up.*



Child Registration Volunteer Sign-up

CLOSES
Today

Near West Coat/Winter Clothing Drive Redeemer for the Near Westside is hosting another winter clothing and supply drive for the students and teachers at Matchbook Learning, a K-8 school on the Near Westside. We are collecting new and gently used winter clothing (coats, gloves, hats) for K-8 children and their families, as well as basic supplies for teachers. *We also have an Amazon list to purchase new items and supplies for teachers, but all donations are welcome.*



Other Upcoming Events

DEADLINE
Dec. 13

Basket Donation for Advent Art We are looking for shallow, unpainted, rattan/wicker baskets of various sizes, anywhere from 8 inches-2 feet wide and no more than 6-8 inches deep. These baskets will be sewn together to form a sculpture in the sanctuary. Baskets can be dropped off in the sanctuary by the welcome desk on Sundays or in the church offices during the week.

Dec. 16 AM
Dec. 18 AM
Dec. 18 PM
or
Dec. 19 PM

Redeemer Women's Advent Book Discussions Too often our preparation to celebrate the birth of our Savior is overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of the season. Redeemer Women invites you to slow down and savor this season. Read *Advent* by Tish Harrison Warren and enjoy festive food, connection, and discussion with other women on a date/time that works best for you. *Use the QR code to register for one of four times.*



Dec. 16
6-8 pm

Youth Group Christmas Social

High School Christmas Party | Dinner, dogdeball, and dancing at Redeemer
Middle School Progressive Dinner | Apps, dinner, dessert, and a white elephant gift exchange at different homes in Herron Morton
Use the QR code to learn more.



Dec. 21
7-8 pm

Blue Christmas at Midtown Church Please join Midtown Church, on the longest, darkest night of the year at their Blue Christmas service. Blue Christmas is an evening of worship for those experiencing grief, sadness, loneliness, and loss this Christmas season—and for those who stand in solidarity with them, weeping with those who weep.

Feb. 2-3

DEADLINE
Dec. 31

CIP Men's Retreat Join us for a great opportunity to connect with other men, and set aside time to grow together in Christ! Bob Smart, pastor of Christ Church in Normal, IL, will address questions men ask as we are transformed by the gospel. *Email Sam (sam@redeemindy.org). Use the QR code to sign up.*



More information can be found at our website: redeemindy.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDE

The Sunday Morning Bible Study will be in the Speck Gallery.

The Creatives Class will be in the City Gallery.

This week, we invite you to join us for the Artist Talk in sanctuary. Katie Pourcho will interview some of the creators of some of our Advent liturgical art. Come and learn how they envisioned our shared embodiment through their different mediums and practices. Next Sunday, we formally welcome our new members!

Nursery is open for children ages 0-3 the whole morning.

REDEEMER STUDENTS SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCATIONS

- *Middle School: the Underground*
- *High School: Room 205*

REDEEMER KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL LOCATIONS

- *Preschool 3: Nursery*
- *Preschool 4-5: Room 160 (Children's Worship)*
- *Kindergarten-1st Grade: Room 204*
- *2nd-3rd Grade: Room 201*
- *4th-5th Grade Boys: Room 203*
- *4th-5th Grade Girls: Sky Gallery (3rd Floor)*

Christmas Eve Service Times

<i>10 am</i>	<i>Sunday Morning Service</i>	<i>No Sunday School</i>
<i>5 pm</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	<i>Childcare Provided</i>
<i>7 pm</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	<i>No Childcare</i>

New Year's Eve Service Time

<i>10 am</i>	<i>Sunday Morning Service</i>	<i>No Sunday School</i>
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Closing Hymn

“We Will Feast”

All

**We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.**

**We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood—upheld, protected, gathered up.**

**We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.**

**In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid;
For the promised morning, Oh how long! O God of Jacob, be my strength!**

**We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.**

**Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed, You are the faithful One;
And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.**

**We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.**

Sandra McCracken and Josh Moore, 2015

Benediction

Contact Us

Charles Anderson Lead Pastor / charles@redeemindy.org

Sam Haist Groups & Formation; Assistant Pastor / sam@redeemindy.org

Erin Anderson Connections—New to Redeemer? / erin@redeemindy.org

Jeff Nottingham Care & Counseling; Assistant Pastor / jeff.nottingham@redeemindy.org

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New Hope 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

General Info / info@redeemindy.org

2023 year-to-date giving:

\$2,385,662

January-December 2023 budget:

\$2,785,909

Congregational Giving

December 3, 2023	\$	45,068
December Total	\$	45,068

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, email info@redeemindy.org.

Contact Us

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.

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 Desk in the back of the sanctuary 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

SPOUSE OR FRIEND

- Male Female

CONTACT

Email

Phone

USE THE QR CODES IF YOU'D LIKE TO...*



Receive the
Church Newsletter



Join a Community
Group

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



REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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