



Christmas Eve

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
24 December 2023

Back Wall

Kyrie Lewis, Esther Gray, and Katie Ito with the Yeomans and Peacock families, *Sacred Lineage, Holy Dependence*, 2023, oil of canvas, fabric, baskets, and clay

Themes of hospitality, womanhood, and human dependence are woven together in this piece. The women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy—Ruth, Tamar, Bathsheba, and Rahab—call out to us across generations before Mary. Their words and wombs bear witness to the protective and steadfast love of God, represented in the cluster of baskets at the center. Their portraits flank the table-like installation, illustrating the intimate meeting of heaven and earth through a teenager that made space in her literal body to bear Christ.

We call attention to Mary through the clay artifacts in each basket that honor her pregnancy, as her cells expanded and divided, as her body stretched, bled, and tore to make way for the Living Word to dwell as flesh among us. The edge of the table is lined with a braided rope, reminiscent of an umbilical cord. Christ baptizes our human dependency through his reception of Mary's nourishment, hospitality, and affection.

Rejoice! Christ has put on flesh and bone for you. May we extend kindness and reverence to our bodies and our limits as we bear Christ in our daily life to our communities.

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

The patchwork of our dwelling together as God's people is joined piece-by-piece with all those who have lived or will live, past, present and future, eagerly longing for Jesus' Return in Glory. Yet, in all of life, Jesus comes to us to dwell in and through us by his Holy Spirit. In joy and sorrow, in community and in solitude, in conflict and peace, in work and rest, in birth and death, in the light of day and the darkness of night, he is present with us as we wait. What wonder in this glorious, mysterious Truth!

Columns

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

South Window

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

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.

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

All

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav’n and earth,

Lend your voices, lend your aid to proclaim the Savior’s birth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

words traditional French carol; tr. James Chadwick, 1862; music Gloria; Public Domain

Welcome

Lesson

PLAN FOR HUMANS

Readers

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Romans 8:19

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure,
we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,
he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Carol

"What Child is This?"

All

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Raise, raise a song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

trad. English carol, 16th cent.; adapt. William C. Dix, 1865; Public Domain

Lesson

PROMISE OF HIS HUMANNESS

Readers

Genesis 12:1-3

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

2 Samuel 7:12-14

¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

Isaiah 9:6-7

All

⁶ **For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

⁷ **Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.**

Carol

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

All

**Sing we now of Christmas; Noel sing we here!
Sing our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we Noel; the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas; sing we here Noel!**

**From the Eastern kingdoms come the wisemen far.
Bearing ancient treasure, following yonder star.
Sing we Noel; the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas; sing we here Noel!**

**From the distant mountains hear the trumpet sound,
With angelic blessing on the silent town.
Sing we Noel; the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas; sing we here Noel!**

**Come, let us surround him on the glorious night.
Gather here around him—wondrous babe of light.
Sing we Noel; the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas; sing we here Noel!**

trad. French Carol

Lesson

PURPOSE OF HIS HUMANNESS

Readers

Deuteronomy 18:15

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

Hebrews 2:17-18

¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Lesson

PIERCING OF HIS HUMANNESS

Readers

Isaiah 53:4-6

- ⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Zechariah 12:10

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

Carol

“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!

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the virgin’s womb.
Very God, begotten not created.
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n.
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing.
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

Advent Prayer

Lesson

PATTERN FOR NEW HUMANNESS

Reader

1 Corinthians 15:44b-49

^{44b} If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

Carol

"When the Lord Came Down"

All

**When the Lord came down, well it made no sound
Just a little light, mid the noisy night
When the Lord came down**

**While Joseph prayed, outside he paced
If this was all God's plan, he couldn't understand
While Joseph prayed**

**When Mary cried, she held Jesus tight
She was all alone, far from her home
When Mary cried**

**As the angels sang, through the worlds it rang
The tyranny we'd known, was being overthrown
As the angels sang**

**What the shepherds saw, in the filth and straw
Was the King of kings, in raw humility
What the shepherds saw**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Here we fall
With shouts of joy, and tears of awe**

**For while we were still wanting our sin
And hating Him, God entered in**

**To show all the scared, the weight of his love
And sparing none, he gave up his only Son**

**When they gave his name, they'd been told he'd save
They hoped he just might, they didn't know how right
When they gave his name**

Nathan Partain, 2014

Lesson

PRESENCE OF HIS HUMANNESS

Readers

Luke 2:1-7

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.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader

This is the Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Charles Anderson

Carol

“Silent Night”

All

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

words Joseph Mohr, c. 1818; vs. 1 & 3 tr. John F. Young, 1863; music Franz Gruber, 1820

Benediction

Our Mission & Values

Redeemer exists to connect people to Jesus who is bringing wholeness to the city. We believe that the best way for us to follow Jesus in his mission is through:

- Walking in the light of who we truly are because of the ***transforming safety of the gospel***
- Joyfully receiving and being obedient to the ***life-giving authority of scripture***
- Coming wholeheartedly and attentively to our Father through ***thoughtful, expectant worship***
- Being daring and sincere with one another, seeking ***meaningful relationships***
- Bringing all that we have into every sphere of our lives, ***creating beauty where we are***
- Being ready at each moment with compassion and boldness, to step into ***respectful evangelism***
- Praying and following the leading of the Holy Spirit, remaining in our ***desperate dependence on Jesus***

Contact Us

1505 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
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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...*



Recieve 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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