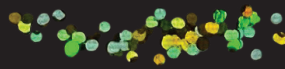




REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADVENT | 12.05.2021

Cover Art

Cuneiform, "For God So Loved the World"

David Halliday

Words scribed in clay tablets from the time of Ezra remain today, even though the people who made them are long gone. The infinite God we speak and listen to each Sunday knows and remembers each word he has spoken to us, and remembers every human word ever spoken since the beginning of creation. Names, prayers and blessings are scribed on the clay tablets we made in the Advent Workshop.

Window Covering

Barb Knuckles

The window is a map of rebuilding: the rings represent us, our families, tribes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and the city. The metallic pipecleaners represent our interconnections, creating a beautiful pattern of God's grace and mercy reaching far beyond our individual selves.

Platform Art

Tom Peck

A tower represents the cornerstone of the rebuilt temple, constructed during Ezra's time. Golden bowls, part of the treasure provided to build the temple, define the structure. Yet, as the church calendar progresses, they also become monumental Advent candles, signalling our anticipation of Jesus, savior of the world.

Banners

Erin Hall

The places we are from carry a feeling, a texture. The familiarity of a handrail or a rocking chair, a tile floor, a crack in the sidewalk can take us back in time, give us a sense of place or keep us grounded. This season members of our community, mostly our youth and teens have shared the texture of their place with us in these harmonious banners made of graphite rubbings on paper. These banners themselves are a tiny crack into small places and things that matter to big meaningful, lives and remind us to reconnect, engage and to be present and intentional in the spaces we inhabit.

Communion Set

Becca Ito

Procession

Leader Look! He is coming with the clouds.

All **And every eye shall see him!**

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

Advent Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the LORD.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

(Continued next page)

Leader Jesus has brought to fulfillment a new covenant,
A new way of relationship,
A new kind fellowship,
So that by his Spirit in us,
We know the Father's heart and will.

All **Let us walk in the light of the LORD who comes!**
In the joy of his love,
 with our hearts set on a new home,
 leaving our old life behind,
 and bearing the new name of the family of our God.

Opening 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.

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; Public Domain

Prayer of Adoration

Welcome

Prayer of Confession

Based on Isaiah 40; 42; Ezra 3

Leader We fear that God has forgotten us
in the wilderness, in exile, in a pandemic.

All **Have we dropped off your radar, God?
We doubt that you notice us.
So, we make up our minds to make our own way.
May we lift our eyes to you and believe again
that you are personally involved in our days.**

Leader Our Father has spoken to us in his Word
to assure us of his love,
to share himself so that we would trust in him.

All **But we would rather not follow your ways,
or live in accordance with what is written.
We mistrust that we can really get to know you from old pages.
Our experience and insight feel much more relevant.
Help us to see the short sightedness of our wisdom,
and learn that you alone are trustworthy
that in all that you have said to us,
we will find fulfillment and life beyond what we can imagine.**

Leader The new that you offer doesn't seem that necessary, we think;
the old ways were doing all right.

All **We confess that we don't want to live by faith,
so we settle for the old ways we already know.
Teach us to walk by faith not in what is seen and felt
but what is unseen and to follow you into the unknown.**

Leader Our Father, in your mercy, hear our confession.

All **Jesus, in your mercy, do not leave us to ourselves.**

Leader Spirit, in your mercy, lead us in the way of eternal life.

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Isaiah 40-43

Leader O church, how can you say the LORD doesn't see your troubles?
O Redeemer, how can you claim,
"God doesn't see what's happened to us;
our plight is overlooked"?
Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

All **The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He never gets weak or weary.
No one can get their head around his understanding.**

Leader You who bring good news to Indy,
go up on Crown Hill.
You who bring good news to Downtown,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid.

All **"Here is our God!"
The sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
He gathers his flock in his arms
and carries them close to his heart.**

Leader So now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, Church,
he who formed you, Redeemer:

All **"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned."**

Leader "I have given my Son in exchange for you.
My Son has gladly laid down his life for you."

All **It really is true; the Lord has done a new thing!
He has made a way in the wilderness.**

Song in the Gospel

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

All

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here;
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night;
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of Nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease;
And be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

words Anonymous, 9th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; music French melody, 15th cent.; Public Domain

Song in the Gospel

“Thou Who Wast 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,
Make 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. by Charles Kitson, 1930

Prayer of Dependence

Children's Worship

Children's Worship, for kids ages 3-5, is where children can begin to learn how to worship as a church family. Please check in your child before the service either in the back of the sanctuary or at the nursery desk. They will be dismissed right before the sermon, and we will bring them back into the sanctuary during communion. Parents must have their security tag when picking up their child in the sanctuary.

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Remembering Our Baptism

Based on Matthew 28:18-20

Leader

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism: Question #94

What is Baptism?

All

Baptism is a sacrament in which the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, does signify and seal our grafting into Christ, and receiving of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord’s.

Song of Baptism

“Baptized in Water”

Leader

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting His promise, faithfully now God’s praises we sing.

All

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, looking to heaven now we sing.**

In the name of God, the Father, with the Son and Holy Ghost.

Trad. Gaelic Melody, Michael Saward, add. lyrics Bruce Benedict, 1982

Covenant Baptism

Baptism of Abel Robert Harrison, son of Tyler and Kayla Harrison

1st Service

Parents' Vows

1. Do you acknowledge Abel's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly commit Abel to God and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregation's Vows

Leader

Our God made a covenant with Abraham, the father of all who believe, saying, "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

All

**Peter preached the gospel to the church saying,
"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—
for all whom the Lord our God will call."**

Leader

Do you, the members of this congregation, receive Abel into this church as one whom God has called his own according to the covenant? And do you now promise to surround him with Christian love, to pray for him, and to set an example of genuine faith and virtue?

All

**We do, for whoever welcomes this child of God in Christ's name,
welcomes him.
And whoever welcomes Christ, welcomes the one who sent him.**

Scripture

Ezra 1:5-11

Reader

⁵ Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. ⁶ All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

⁷ Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. ⁸ Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ This was the inventory:

30 gold dishes

1,000 silver dishes

29 silver pans

¹⁰ 30 gold bowls

410 matching silver bowls

1,000 other articles

¹¹ In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along with the exiles when they came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Reader

All

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Charles Anderson

The God of Pots and Pans

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Community Group Questions

- 1. How does this season of life feel like new territory? How does it feel like it's part of the same story as before (in good and not so good ways)? How does that mix of new and old affect you, particularly in your faith?*
- 2. What are signs of continuity in Ezra 1, that this is part of the same story as before? Why does the writer include those signs? What does that communicate to the exiles as they return (and to their descendants who are actually the original audience for this Scripture many decades after the events)?*
- 3. What does it mean for your faith to see continuity in how God writes the story of salvation? How does that encourage or challenge your trust in him? What difference could that make for how you navigate this season, even this coming week?*

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.

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.

Communion Hymn

“O Marvel at What Our God has Done”

All

**Though, beyond words, he was great. He was made low for our sake
He came to us who were scrounging for earth’s joys.
He came to us who were lost in our own noise.
He came to us who would never admit our great need.
Look the maker of all is the hope that you seek.**

**Now raise a shout! The Lord has come!
Behold a child; the God of Love.
The First, the Last, a hidden king,
Has come to be our offering.
O Raise a shout! O Hail the Son!
O marvel at what our God has done.**

**Though he was free in heaven to stay, He took on flesh and drank our pain.
He came to us who were rich and complaining.
He came to us who were poor and still fighting.
He came to us who were hungry and could never find sleep.
Look the Savior of all comes to make your soul free.**

**Now raise a shout! The Lord has come!
Behold a child; the God of Love.
The First, the Last, a hidden king,
Has come to be our offering.
O Raise a shout! O Hail the Son!
O marvel at what our God has done.**

**Though Death demanded, us to take. He gave himself in our place.
He came to us who would meager return love.
He came to us who didn’t recognize our own God.
He came to us who would strike at his sweetest embrace.
Look! The Lord Jesus Christ comes abounding in grace.**

**Now raise a shout! The Lord has come!
Behold a child; the God of Love.
The First, the Last, a hidden king,
Has come to be our offering.
O Raise a shout! O Hail the Son!
O marvel at what our God has done.**

Nathan Partain, 2005

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

Advent Resources | redeemindy.org/advent

In this season of Advent be sure to check out our various resources online. There you will find resources from RedeemerKids, information about the Advent Prayer Guide, and links to stream Advent and Christmas music from Redeemer and Nathan Partain. (You can also scan the QR code below to listen. CDs are available to purchase from the welcome team.)



Holiday Grieving Group

Wednesday, December 15 | Redeemer offices | 12:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday service times

Christmas Eve | 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 26 | 10:00 a.m.

More information about these and other events can be found at our website redeemindy.org.

Closing Hymn

“Arise and Shine, Your Light has Come”

All

**Angels shout and fill the heavens, Still we feel the trembling hum.
For the King of all creation, Long-awaited He has come
Go like shepherds’ humble stature, Not in pomp but earnest fear,
Seek the child and bear your witness, Tell the Hope of all is here.**

**O arise and shine, your light has come!
Behold He rises like the dawn.
O hear the gathered nations sing,
Rejoice! Adore Him! Christ our King! O Arise!**

**O receive like Mary, Joseph, Wonder at this glorious sight.
See by faith, the angel’s ver’ty: This poor child is Light of light.
Herods will be always hunting, Some by slander, some by sword.
Stand steadfast, O dear believer, Holding out the living word.**

**O arise and shine, your light has come!
Behold He rises like the dawn.
O hear the gathered nations sing,
Rejoice! Adore Him! Christ our King! O Arise!**

**Watch and wait and keep affection, Stir your hope and faith and love.
Soon you’ll see your vindication, coming in the clouds above.
Praise and glory now and ever, In this world and that to come
Quick the city, down from heaven, Jesus calls His bride, “Come home!”**

**O arise and shine, your light has come!
Behold He rises like the dawn.
O hear the gathered nations sing,
Rejoice! Adore Him! Christ our King! O Arise!**


Nathan Partain, 2015

Benediction

Contact Us

- Charles Anderson Lead Pastor / charles@redeemindy.org
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- Children, Students, and College / nextgen@redeemindy.org
Sunday Classes and Discipleship / adultministry@redeemindy.org
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
Redeemer Women / women@redeemindy.org
Worship and Liturgical Arts / worship@redeemindy.org

	2021 budget:
year to date giving:	\$2,487,554
\$1,941,454.24	



Congregational Giving

November 28	\$	53,650.65
November Total	\$	211,385.53

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, contact Jen Maurer [jen.maurer@redeemindy.org].

Fountain Square Pres

In 2014, Fountain Square Presbyterian Church opened its doors. The first daughter church of Redeemer, Fountain Square ministers to, worships with, and cultivates Christ-centered community in the Fountain Square neighborhood of Indianapolis.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is part of a church planting movement in Indianapolis and we are earnestly working to fund the planting of another gospel community.

Good to See You Again.

You've been around, but there are so many ways to get plugged in that you're not sure where to start. How about starting here? Give us your name and email, check some boxes, and drop this in the offering plate.

FIRST & LAST NAME

EMAIL

I'D LIKE TO... *

- Learn More About Redeemer
 - Become a Member
 - Join a Community Group
 - Work with Global Missions
 - Use my Artistic Talents
 - Serve with Kids
 - Serve with Students
 - Greet on Sunday Mornings
 - Make & Serve Food
 - Join a Prayer Team
 - Talk to Someone About Counseling
 - Do Something Else:
-
-
-

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

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 Table 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

Birthday _____

SPOUSE OR FRIEND

- Male Female

Birthday _____

CONTACT

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY!

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.

Church Plants

FOUNTAIN SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN

901 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
303.408.9720
www.fountainsquarepres.org

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.