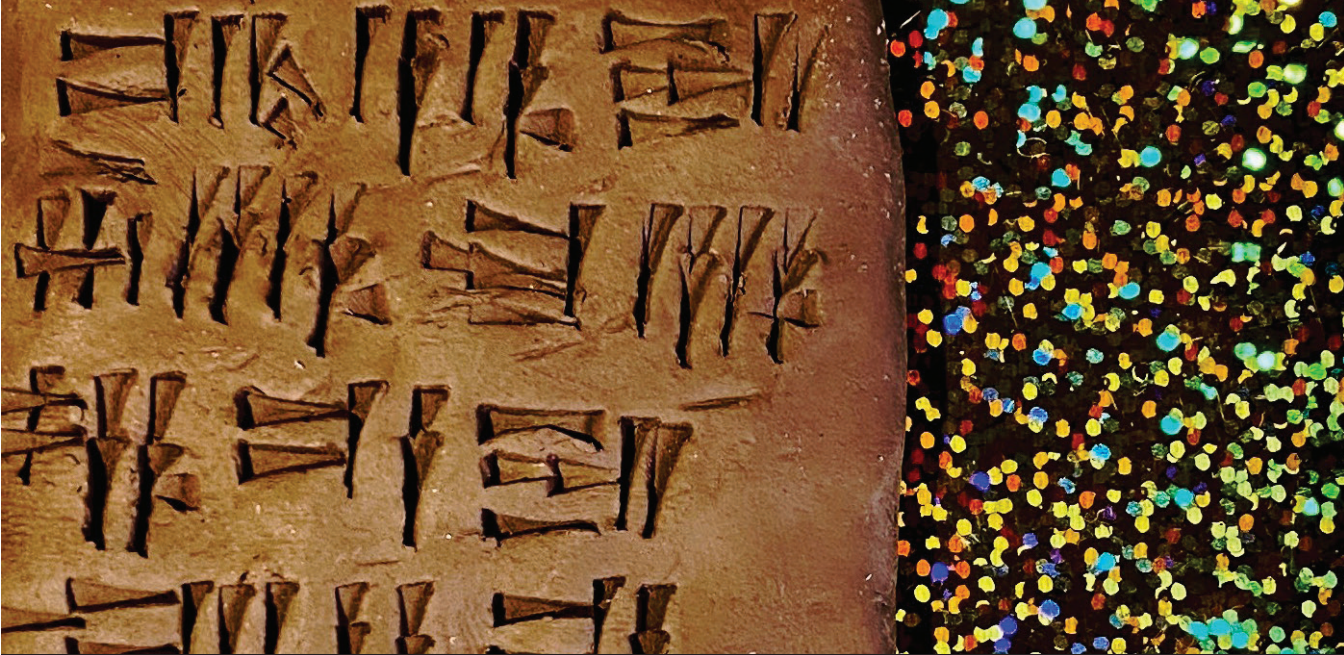
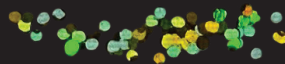


4



**REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



ADVENT | 12.19.2021

Cover Art

Cuneiform, "For God So Loved the World"

David Halladay

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.

Advent Procession

In our Advent procession, elements of past liturgical artworks from this season are carried in each week. These common items—such as yarn and string—help us remember Advents past, even as we continue to wait. These elements remind us of the many ways God has been part of every Advent season at Redeemer.

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

Towers represent the corners of the rebuilt temple, constructed during Ezra's time. Golden bowls, part of the treasure provided to build the temple, define the structures. 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.

Heraldry

Hanging Disc Installation

Barb Knuckles

As we rebuild, our unity is in Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the coming/already here kingdom of God. We are examples of the work of God redeeming people from every nation, tongue and tribe, unifying us without obliterating the beauties of our redeemed cultural differences. (Rev. 5:9) We are celebrating our unity and the beauty of our particularity using symbols of heraldry.

Communion Set

Craig Dodge Lyle

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

from Revelation 21:1-5

Reader Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Leader: He who is seated on the throne says, “Behold! I am making everything new!”

All: **Amen! These words are trustworthy and true.**

Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

All

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

**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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

All

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing worldly-minded, for with blessing in his hand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human nature, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to his presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1864, Public Domain; music: French carol melody

Song in the Gospel

“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 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.**

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

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]



Scripture

Ezra 3:1-6

Reader

¹ When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. ² Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. ³ Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices. ⁴ Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. ⁵ After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the Lord, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the Lord. ⁶ On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, though the foundation of the Lord's temple had not yet been laid.

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Charles Anderson

Guerrilla Worship

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Community Group Questions

1. *How does Ezra 3:1-6 reflect a “guerrilla worship” approach? What does that illuminate in the text? What are the dangers of the metaphor?*
2. *How many times is “burnt offering” mentioned in Ezra 3:1-6? What was the burnt offering? Read Leviticus 1:3-9 for the instructions on a burnt offering. (The next two paragraphs, vv.10-13 and vv.14-17 repeat the instructions with respect to sheep and birds.) How does this offering work? What is the significance of Leviticus 1:4? What insight does this provide for the focus on the burnt offering in Ezra 3?*
3. *What motivated the returnees’ focus on the altar and sacrifice? Why was it so significant? Think also about their descendants for whom this text was written 100 years later—what would be the significance for them?*
4. *Read Hebrews 10:11-14. How does the focus of Ezra 3 look to and fit with Christ’s sacrifice? How do we, therefore, apply the lessons of Ezra 3 as believers now? What does sacrifice look like for us? Read Hebrews 13:15-16 and Romans 12:1-2 for ideas.*

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

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

All

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels’ chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**The angels told the shepherds that this would be the sign:
A baby in a feed trough—both human and divine.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

**To God be praise and glory; his peace throughout the earth,
A savior has been offered to give us second birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

Traditional, adapted by John W. Work, Jr.; Additional lyrics: Tom Peck

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.)



Birthday Party for Jesus

December 21 | 4:00-7:00 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

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: Rory Cooney; music: traditional Irish folk melody

Benediction

Contact Us

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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
\$2,025,223.86	



Congregational Giving

December 12	\$	50,984.41
December Total	\$	92,464.62

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.