



CHRISTMASTIDE

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12.26.2021

Cover Art

Quincy Owens

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.

Stage Wall Installation

Dirk Edwards, Hidi Gardner, and Redeemer parishioners

Golden Cloud

Kyle Ragsdale

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 Lile

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Luke 2:10-11; Isaiah 9:6-7

Leader I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
He is the Messiah, the Lord!

All **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.**

Leader Yes, and his dominion
and the peace that he brings
will keep spreading everywhere
to all reaches of creation
without boundary or ending.

All **Amen!**

Opening Hymn

“Joy to the World”

All

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

words Isaac Watts, 1719; music “Antioch”; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

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

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

All

**Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here!
Listen to our praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all, Noel!**

**Shepherds on the hillside heard the angels sing:
Glory, honor, praises to the infant King.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all, Noel!**

**In the town, they found him; Son of Mary mild.
Sleeping in a manger was the Holy Child.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all, Noel!**

**Wise men sought and found him, treasures did they bring;
Bowing down, they worshiped Christ, the King of kings.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all, Noel!**

**Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all, Noel!**

traditional French Carol

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

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [\[redeemindy.org/give\]](https://redeemindy.org/give)



Scripture

Ezra 3:7-13

Reader

⁷ So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸ Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the Lord. ⁹ And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.

¹⁰ And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. ¹¹ And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

“For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. ¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³ so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

Reader
All

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

Sermon

Nicholas McDonald

Living in the Sehnsucht



Psalm 78:69 He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.

Proverbs 3:19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place.

Psalm 137:7 "Let us go to his dwelling place, let us worship at his footstool..."

1 Kings 7:10 The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits. And above were costly stones, cut according to measurement, and cedar.

1 Kings 10:18-22 The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with the finest gold. The throne had six steps, and the throne had a round top, and on each side of the seat were armrests and two lions standing beside the armrests, while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. The like of it was never made in any kingdom. All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver; silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon. For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

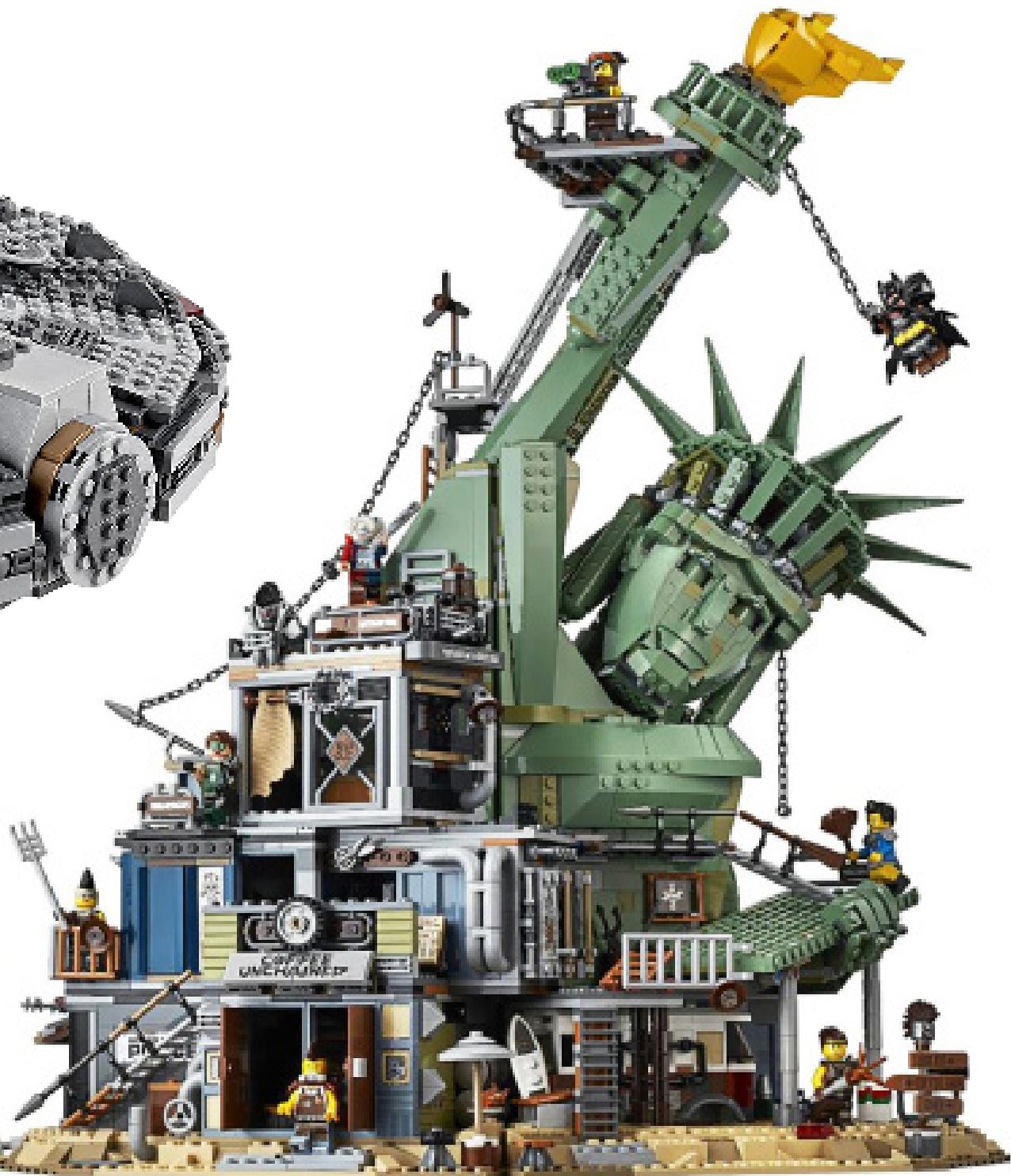
Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."



Community Group Questions

1. *How has this Christmas season been for you? Sorrowful? Joyful? Numb? Is one of these a theme over the last couple of years for you?*
2. *Can you describe a moment when you felt a sense of *Sensucht*, a “wistful longing” or inconsolable yearning? It could be a moment of joy or sorrow.*
3. *Read Matthew 5:2-11. (The word “blessed” means “blissful” or “happy”). How does Jesus describe the inner life of a disciple? How do you relate to this? Where is there a disconnect, for you?*





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.

Song of Celebration

“Glory to God in the Highest”

All

**There was a boy, went for a walk, down by the stream, picked out some rocks,
And stepped out on, the battlefield, no shield or sword, for him to wield.
The giant jeered, and boasted loud, the little boy just held his ground
And pulled a stone out of his pouch, and raised his sling, and slung it round singing...**

Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God!

**A coward man, was hiding low, an angel called, told him to go
And lead his kin, to overthrow the burdens of their wicked foes.
His troop was small, three hundred men. The foe too vast to count, like sand.
Still they around the foe that night, raised up their horns, and jars of light singing...**

Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God! Glory to God!

**A pilgrim folk, in desert sun, were told to take, a fortress town.
No siege ramps built, no batter ram, the word of God, would be their plan.
Six days they marched, around its sides, the seventh day, the seventh time,
The trumpets made a victor’s sound. The people raised, a mighty shout singing...**

Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God! Glory to God!

**A virgin aches in labor pains. She’s giving birth, to him who saves,
There in the barn, the humble means, the filthy rags, the trough unclean.
The rock now strikes, the giants face. The jars now break, the light dismays.
Jericho’s walls, are tumbling down, for Christ is born, the angels singing...**

**Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God! Glory to God!
Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God! Glory to God!**

Nathan Partain, 2011

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

Winter/Spring Bible studies | Registration opens next week

More information 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

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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:
\$2,487,554

year to date giving:
\$2,061,739.57



Congregational Giving

December 19\$ 38,025.87
December Total\$ 130,490.58

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.