

We are glad you are worshipping with us.

Please complete and tear off this card to share your contact information, update your contact information, or make a prayer request.

Simply place it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor.

My Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My Prayer Request

Please pray for

who lives at

AREA(S) OF NEED

- Spiritual Life
- Relationships
- Physical Health
- Finances
- Emotional Health
- Vocation

Please keep my request confidential and do not add it to the prayer list.

Please add me to your email list for prayer requests and other church announcements.

November 27, 2022

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister leads the prayer of Thanksgiving. The people join in the prayer as follows:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed in He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The minister continues the prayer. The people respond:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Breaking of Bread & Communion of the People

Hymn..... *I Lift My Eyes* (Psalm 121)

I lift my eyes up to the hills; From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Maker of The heavens and the earth.
He will not let my foot be moved; He keeps my journey safe.

*O my soul, praise the Lord most high;
Strong to save, He upholds my life.
Forevermore, He will be my light;
I lift my eyes up to the Lord most high.*

He is the shade at my right hand, My shelter in the storm;
No sun by day, nor moon by night Shall ever bring me harm.
He will not slumber, will not sleep; He watches all my ways.

I lift my eyes up to the hills; From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Maker of The heavens and the earth,
The God of Israel is my guide Wherever I may go;
And in His strength I will abide, Until He leads me home.

Words and Music by Jordan Kaufflin, Kristyn Getty, Matt Merker and Matt Papa
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*The word “catholic” in the creed means the invisible and universal Church consisting of “the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head.” (*Westminster Confession of Faith* 25.6.)

Service for the Lord’s Day

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

Words of Greeting

Prayer for the Lord’s Assistance and Blessing

Call to Worship..... 1Thessalonians 4:13-17 ESV

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers,
about those who are asleep,
that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

**For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so,
through Jesus,
God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.**

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command,
with the voice of an archangel,
and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

**And the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air,
and so we will always be with the Lord.**

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A Season of Praise

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (Hymn 196)
Man of Sorrows! What a Name (Hymn 246)

The Reading of the Law of God

God spoke all these words, saying, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before Me.

**You shall not make for yourself any graven image;
you shall not bow down to them or serve them.**

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet.

Our Lord Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Invitation to Confession of Sin

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we are to have no other gods before You.

**Yet, we have often slipped into loving, fearing, and serving
things of earth.**

We have not worshiped You with our whole heart.

Nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves,

but we have served our own selfish interests,

withholding love and forgiveness when we should give them.

In Your mercy, Lord, forgive us.

Help us to lay aside the works of darkness

and put on the armor of light.

Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert

and cherish a living faith in Jesus Christ, our Judge and Savior

who rescues us from sin and death, and who lives with You

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!

*The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber,
because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

—based on Romans 13:11-12 NIV

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon ***The Freedom of Forgiveness***
by Pastor Neil Spence

Affirmation of Faith ***The Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Psalm Notes

Psalm 121 is a “song of ascents” written originally for pilgrims on the ascent to Jerusalem. The pilgrim lifts his eyes to the hills—to Jerusalem and the Temple—and beyond them to God who is his keeper and help. Charles Haddon Spurgeon called it “a Psalm to the Keeper of Israel.” For generations the people of God have been comforted in knowing that while they sleep, the Keeper of Israel “will neither slumber nor sleep” (verse 4).

The Scriptures teach the glorious truth that it is Abraham’s *spiritual* descendants and not his *physical* descendants who are the true “Israel of God” (Galatians. 3:7-29; 6:16). Likewise, the Scriptures make it clear it is not earthly Jerusalem we love and for which we long but the heavenly one (Galatians 4:25-26; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14). We who trust in Christ are “native born” citizens of that fair city—no matter what our earthly background (Psalm 87).

Singing the psalms—as well as hymns skillfully based on them—keeps before us the unity of the Bible and the oneness of the people of God.

How to Become a Member

Christ’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is fulfilled in Christians who commit themselves to Christ and to one another in covenant relationship. Through **church membership** we acknowledge that Jesus Christ alone is the Head and Lord of the Church and we commit ourselves to do our part to build up the body of Christ for mission. Those who desire to be members are invited to fill out a **Membership Enrollment Form** and discuss membership with the pastor.

Tithes and Offerings

Tithing has been the practice of the covenant people of God since ancient times. Our giving—as an act of worship and consecration—gives expression to the love and faith of the grateful people of God. An offering plate is positioned at each entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you for your faithfulness!

The Prayer of Thanksgiving continues on the next page.

The Morning Prayer and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn*It Was Finished Upon That Cross*

How I love the voice of Jesus,
on the cross of Calvary;
He declares His work is finished,
He has spoken this hope to me.
Though the sun had ceased its shining,
Though the war appeared as lost.
Christ has triumphed over evil,
It was finished upon that cross.

Now the curse, it has been broken,
Jesus paid the price for me;
Full, the pardon He has offered,
Great, the welcome that I receive.
Boldly I approach my Father,
Clothed in Jesus' righteousness.
There is no more guilt to carry,
It was finished upon that cross.

*Death was once my great opponent,
Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us
Rose that we would be free indeed!
Yes, He rose that we would be free indeed!*

Free from ev'ry plan of darkness,
Free to live and free to love.
Death is dead and Christ is risen,
It was finished upon that cross.
Onward to eternal glory to my Savior and my God.
I rejoice in Jesus' vict'ry,
It was finished upon that cross.

Music and words by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Nigel Hendroff.
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The Blessing

WELCOME TO REDEEMER!

Coffee and other refreshments are available after the service. A time of learning with classes for all ages begins at **11:00AM** and a nursery is provided.

Also Today . . .

Sunday School for all ages **11:00-11:55AM**
Christmas Music Rehearsals in the sanctuary **12:00-12:30PM**

This Week . . .

Bible Book Reading **Tuesday • 5:00PM**
The First and Second Epistles of Peter read in their entirety • everyone welcome
led by Daniel Work • childcare provided

Youth Discipleship **Wednesday • 5:00-7:00PM**

Looking Ahead . . .

Men's Prayer Breakfast **Saturday, December 10 • 8:00-9:30AM**
led by Daniel Work • childcare provided

Women's Christmas Luncheon **Saturday, December 10 • 1:00PM**
At the home of Ann Galya-Ferebee • Please sign up to bring a dish
Bring a donation towards a mercy ministry project, and a gift (around \$10) to exchange.

Please invite your friends to join us for

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18 • 6:00PM

This service proclaims the gospel through Scripture readings, carols, and hymns to enrich our celebration of this blessed season. Please bring finger foods for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Worship on Christmas Day & New Year's Day **11:00AM**

Redeemer Christmas Mailbox . . .

Those who wish to "send" Christmas greetings to Redeemer friends may bring their cards to church and place them in our "Christmas Mailbox" (an expandable file on the information table) for pickup.