

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

And Amaziah said to Amos,
“O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah,
and eat bread there, and prophesy there,
but never again prophesy at Bethel,
for it is the king's sanctuary,
and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Amos 7:12-13

The Lord's Service
December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

The Advent Season

The Advent season is celebrated the four Sundays immediately preceding Christmas Day. The term “Advent” is taken from the Latin word which means coming or arrival, and is a season the church has historically set aside for special attention on the significance of the first coming of Christ, and on our waiting for him to come again.

Over these four weeks we will begin our service with Scripture readings and prayers that help us remember the waiting of God’s people for the Messiah that was fulfilled in Christ’s first coming. The hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” captures this Old Testament longing powerfully: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.” Looking back on Christ’s birth, we rejoice that God fulfilled his promises by sending the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to save his people from sin. At the same time, the Advent season reminds us that we, like Israel, are also waiting for our full redemption. We are living in a world broken by sin, death, disease, difficulties, and trials of every kind. Just as Israel longed for the Messiah, so we long for the second coming of Christ and his promise to destroy sin and its curse in this world, that day when “He will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Advent is thus a season that emphasizes waiting, preparation, and repentance for God’s people. As one Christian author reminds us:

While it is difficult to keep in mind in the midst of holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations, and joyful carols, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and there are a variety of ways that this time of mourning works itself out in the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world cause us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death’s dark shadows to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace leads us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew his work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

One of the great benefits of the Advent season is that it helps us re-focus, particularly in the midst of the consumerism everywhere around us, that our hope is not in this world. As we share in the longing of God’s people of old for Jesus’ first coming, we renew our desire for his second coming. This season is also another opportunity for us to cultivate an attitude of repentance and humility for our sin. If we are to fully enter into the joy of Jesus’ birth on Christmas morning, we must ask God to help us mourn over our captivity to sin and failure to love and serve him which made it necessary.

The Lords Service

December 17, 2017

Welcome and Announcements

Third Sunday of Advent

Reading, Prayer and Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

Psalm 150:1-2

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Pastor Scott Korljan

† **Opening Hymn** #214 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (**Children only** will sing the refrain on Vs. 1 & 2 then everyone sings the refrain on Verse 3)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
 Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep- herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun- tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

† =Stand, if able

Bold Words=Congregation

† Invocation

Psalm 124:8

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray.

† The Greeting

2 John 3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from
Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

Amen

† Response

#218 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (Verse 5 only)

All creation, join in praising

God the Father, Spirit, Son;

evermore your voices raising

to th’eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship,

worship Christ, the newborn King.

† =Stand, if able

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Confession of Sin

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us humbly bow our heads before the Lord and confess our sins.

Silent Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalms 103:8, 10-12

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”

† =Stand, if able

Bold Words=Congregation

† Hymn of Assurance “Every Promise of Your Word”

1. From the break - ing of the dawn to the set - ting of the sun, I will
 stum - ble and I sin, con - dem - na - tion press - ing in, I will
 faced with an - guished choice, I will lis - ten for Your voice and I'll
 lifts me from de - spair, love that casts out ev - 'ry fear, as I

stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your Word. Words of pow - er, strong to
 stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your Word. You are faith - ful to for
 stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your Word. Through this dark and trou - bled
 stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your Word. Not for - sak - en, not a -

save, that will nev - er pass a - way, I will stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your
 give that in free - dom I might live, so I stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your
 land You will guide me with Your hand, as I stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your
 lone, for the Com - for - ter has come, and I stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your

Word. For Your cov - e - nant is sure and on
 Word. Guilt to in - no - cence re - stored, You re -
 Word. And You've prom - ised to com - plete ev - 'ry
 Word. Grace suf - fi - cient, grace for me, grace for

this I am se - cure - I can stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your
 mem - ber sins no more - So I'll stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your
 work be - gun in me - So I'll stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your
 all who will be - lieve - We will stand on ev - 'ry prom - ise of Your

Word. 2. When I
 Word. 3. When I'm
 Word. 4. Hope that
 Word.

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Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 14:10-15; 1Thessalonians 1:2-6; 2:10-13

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Giving God Our Offerings

If you are seated on the center aisle, please pass the red Visitor Pad for all visitors to sign.

Special Offertory Music *"Gesù Bambino / Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

† Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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† Sermon Text Reading

Amos 7:1-9:10 (selections 7:1-8:3; 9:1-4)

This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. ²When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said,

“O Lord God, please forgive!

How can Jacob stand?

He is so small!”

³The Lord relented concerning this:

“It shall not be,” said the Lord.

⁴This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, the Lord God was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land.

⁵Then I said,

“O Lord God, please cease!

How can Jacob stand?

He is so small!”

⁶The Lord relented concerning this:

“This also shall not be,” said the Lord God.

⁷This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“Behold, I am setting a plumb line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass by them;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

† =Stand, if able

Bold Words=Congregation

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land."

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' ¹⁶ Now therefore hear the word of the Lord.

"You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

¹⁷ Therefore thus says the Lord:

"Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land."

This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. ² And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me,

"The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them.

³ The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,"
declares the Lord God.

"So many dead bodies!"

"They are thrown everywhere!"

"Silence!"

I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said:

“Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake,
and shatter them on the heads of all the people;
and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword;
not one of them shall flee away;
not one of them shall escape.

² “If they dig into Sheol,
from there shall my hand take them;
if they climb up to heaven,
from there I will bring them down.

³ If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel,
from there I will search them out and take them;
and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.

⁴ And if they go into captivity before their enemies,
there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them;
and I will fix my eyes upon them
for evil and not for good.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Autopsy of a Dead Religion, Part 3”

Pastor Scott Korljan

† =Stand, if able

Bold Words=Congregation

“Autopsy of a Dead Religion, Part 3”

Discussion questions:

1. Read the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. What are the different responses one can have to hearing the word of God? Where do we fall?

Prayer of Application

† **Sermon Hymn** #296 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” (**Verse 4 only**)

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all;
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.

† =Stand, if able

Bold Words=Congregation

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

We warmly welcome to the table all who trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation, have been baptized and have publicly professed their faith as members of any evangelical Christian church. We encourage families to come forward together, but ask that young children not partake of the elements until they have met with their Elders to make a profession of their faith. We encourage those not participating to spend this time reflecting on Individual Prayers for Communion on Page 19. We hope these prayers will be helpful to you as you consider your relationship to Jesus Christ and His people, the church.

Affirmation of Faith Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus,
Though he was in the form of God,
Did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
But emptied himself,
Taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
He humbled himself
And became obedient to the point of death—
Even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
And gave him the name that is above every name,
So that at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue should confess the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

† =Stand, if able

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Lord be with you. Ruth 2:4

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts! Lamentations 3:41

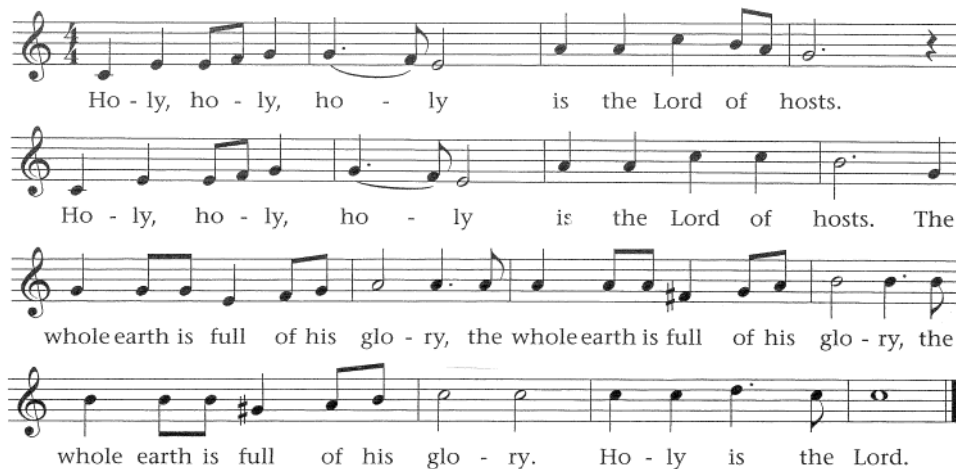
We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 118:1

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. We praise you that you sent him into this world to satisfy our need and our longing for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. And now as we set apart these common elements of bread and wine, we ask you to bless them so that the bread that we break, and the cup of blessing which we bless, would be for us by faith a participation in the body and blood of our Lord. Now with the angels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts. The

whole earth is full of his glo - ry, the whole earth is full of his glo - ry, the

whole earth is full of his glo - ry. Ho - ly is the Lord.

Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread

† =Stand, if able

Bold Words=Congregation

Music for Meditation

"Holy Child"

Holy Child, who chose the hearts of men
To be His favored home
Leaving heaven's gates for Bethlehem
God came to call His own
Now to us the highest King is born
Behold the Royal Son
Glory kneels to mend all that is torn
The promised Child has come

Joy and pain as man He knew on earth
No place to lay His head
As a servant He embraced this world
And on a cross He bled
Having borne the deepest grief of man
He rose to heaven's throne
Now I'm sheltered in the Father's hand
I stand by grace alone

May the gift of God amaze us still
The triumph of all time
As His child I kneel to Heaven's will
To make His purpose mine
Though this road be scarred with trial and pain
It's paved with lavish grace
Knowing Him will be my greatest gain
My hope the Savior's face

1st Communion Hymn #208 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (red hymnal)

2nd Communion Hymn "Before the Throne of God Above"

1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me
3 Be - hold him there! The ri - sen Lamb, my per - fect,

strong and per - fect plea, a great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him
spot - less righ - teous - ness; the great un - chang - e - able I

Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace! One with him -

gra - ven on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by his

heart; I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can
free; for God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood; my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, you love us, have chosen us, and redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ, whose body was broken and whose blood was shed for us. Grant that we may go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to serve you and others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Dismissal #196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Verse 4 only)

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

† Benediction

† Benediction Response

Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

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Individual Prayers for Communion

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I repent of my sins of self-ruling and self-saving. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Thank you that my sin and rebellion are Yours, and Your righteous, perfect, and obedient life is mine through faith in You. Knowing that you died on the cross and have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive and rest upon you alone as my Savior and Lord. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit and through the power of the gospel graciously working in my life to walk in manner pleasing to You. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in You the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on You, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to You, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Redeemer Family:

- Homebound: Dale Millward
- Reva Sharp & family
- Barb Weber and family as they mourn the loss of Barb's mother.
- Bill Crimmins and family as they mourn the loss of Bill's mother.
- Dave VanDyk's mother who is recovering from heart failure.
- Jim vonDrehle's and his family as they mourn the loss of Jim's mother.
- Kathy Van Til and her family. Pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual strength as she continues treatment for cancer.
- Fred Janke as he recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Elaine Bostelaar's upcoming surgery.
- Kimberly Close, sister of Katina Gibson, who is struggling with physical, emotional and spiritual difficulties. Pray that God's love and comfort would meet her in this season of need.
- Paul Mann (Maggie's son-in-law) as he undergoes chemotherapy for advanced cancer. Pray for physical strength, recovery and for God to reveal himself to him.

Churches in our Presbytery:

Michiana Covant, Granger, Indiana - Pastor Peter(Ginger) Wallace: Pray for our elders and deacons; God's comfort in our afflictions; wisdom in making disciples. Praise for God's continued blessing in making the Word, sacraments, and prayer effectual means of salvation in our midst.

Trinity PCA, DeMotte, Indiana - Pastor Stephan (Gabi) Van Eck: Praise for Gabi's successful hip replacement surgery and for faithful members and friends. Pray for Evelyn who is dealing with an infection and for new families and growth.

Reverend Paul Engle - Praise for opportunities to teach adult Sunday School classes. Pray for safety while traveling in mid-January to teach at a Christian university in Uganda.

Announcements

Staffed Nursery Available - For infant to 4 years old. Please see a Deacon or Greeters for directions to the Nursery.

Next Sunday - Pastor Scott preaches from Amos 9:11-15

Candy Catechism - Catechism question of the month:

Question 21, Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

Opening Hymns During Advent - Our opening hymns will be well-known Christmas carols from our hymnal. We invite all ages 14 and younger to the front of the sanctuary during the prelude; older youth should bring a hymnal with them. We will have the **children only** sing the chorus of the hymn with everyone singing the final chorus in unison. Let us rejoice together as we praise our Savior and King!

Caroling - Today at the Pavilions, on the second floor of the Evergreen Cottages. The address is 421 Cottage View Drive. We will begin singing at 1 pm. For more information please see Buzz Bauers.

Prayer Gathering - Will not meet during the remainder of December. They will start again on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

Christmas Eve Service - 5 pm

Winter Festival - January 20th, 3 to 6 pm. At the church, horse-drawn carriage, marshmallow roasting and snow activities. All are invited! See Chris Stevens for more information.

Financial Update - As a church we entered the month of December well behind (approximately \$25,000) our budgeted goals for 2017, so please consider if you can give joyfully to the work of Redeemer as we bring this year to a close. We are thankful for all the generous giving that has sustained Redeemer for another year, and trust that God's provision will be exactly what we need.

This week at Redeemer:

Christmas Caroling - Today at 1 pm

Men's Study - Thursday, 7:30 am

(Life Together, The Classic Exploration of Christian Community, by D. Bonhoeffer)

Serving Today:

Communion Set Up: Ralph & Teresa Kott
Greeting: Dave & Angie VanDyk, Carol DeVries, Brett Schut
Music Ministry: Connie Van Til, Anna & Lily Gibson, Leah, Anna & Ellen Racine, Redeemer Choir
Nursery: Lindsay Korljan
Refreshments: Sarah Racine
Sound Board: Max Wolfe

Serving on Sunday, December 24th:

Communion Set Up: Chris & Nikki Millward
Greeting: Dave & Angie VanDyk, Carol DeVries, Brett Schut
Music Ministry: Connie Van Til
Nursery: Nikki Millward
Refreshments: Deb Long
Sound Board: Gavin Weber

Financials	<u>November 30, 2017</u>	<u>November 30, 2016</u>
General Giving + Rentals:	\$249,182	\$253,717
General Expenses:	\$248,604	\$235,515
Budgeted General Giving + Rentals:	\$274,593	

Want to receive Redeemer email notifications & reminders?

Contact the Church office at:

Email: redemertc@gmail.com

Phone: 231-946-1700

Website: www.redeemertraversecity.org

Redeemer Facebook (Redeemer PCATC)

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10:15 am Christmas Caroling	18	19	20 Leadership	21 Men's Study 7:30 am	22	23
24 Worship Service 10:15 am Christmas Eve Service 5 pm	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28 Men's Study 7:30 am	29	30
31 Worship Service 10:15 am						

The Session (Pastor and Elders)

Rev. Scott Korljan, Pastor.....(773) 971-4055
Fred Janke(216)789-1291
Bill Morrison645-1214
Fred Weber631-1986
David Schafer (Emeritus)

The Deacons

Jerry DeVries.....938-2317
Bob Israel645-4054
Chris Millward.....392-2410
Dennis Weise223-7483

Redeemer Staff

Scott Korljan, Pastor
Mr. Chris Stevens, Pastoral Resident
Connie Van Til, Music Ministry
Deb Long, Office Administrator/Bookkeeper

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

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Sunday School: 9 AM

Worship Service: 10:15 AM

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America