

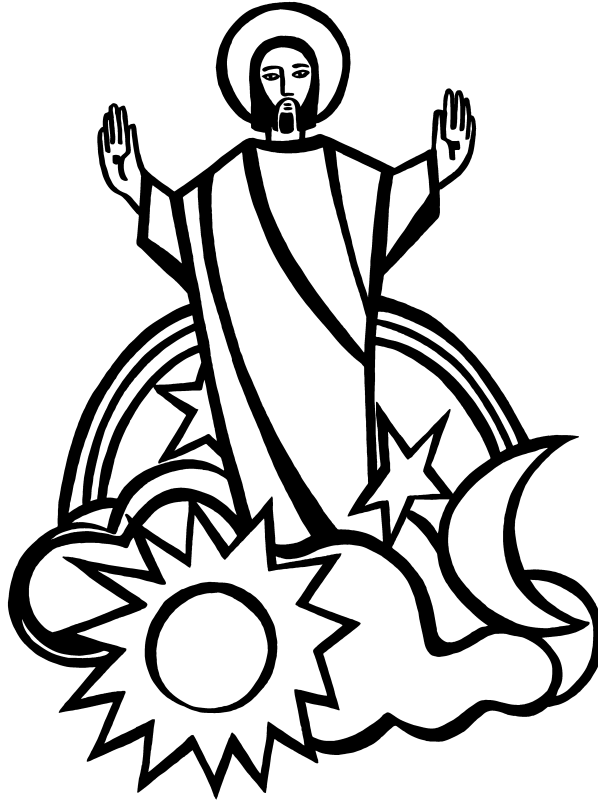
+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am December 3, 2023

**Our mission is to share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.
First Sunday of Advent**



*Stir up your power, and come!
When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven,
it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really
look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the
heavens and come.*



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Seminarian Advent is the season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. All this we find in the presence of God who is here among us, who lives in us, surrounds us, and holds us in the palm of his hand.

All We embrace God's presence, at this moment, and in this place.

Seminarian In this and every season God brings people together.

All We embrace God's beloved among us.

Seminarian In this and every season we celebrate life that is born where darkness reigned, we celebrate the gift of love that overcame fear forevermore.

All We embrace the one who brings life.

Seminarian In this and every season God is with us.

All Lord, speak to us this day! Amen.

GATHERING SONG
Please stand and sing.

Come And See

Lenny LeBlanc

1. Come and see the glo - ry of the Lord,
2. Come and give thanks un - to the Lord.

Come, be - hold the Lamb.
Come, be - hold the Lamb.

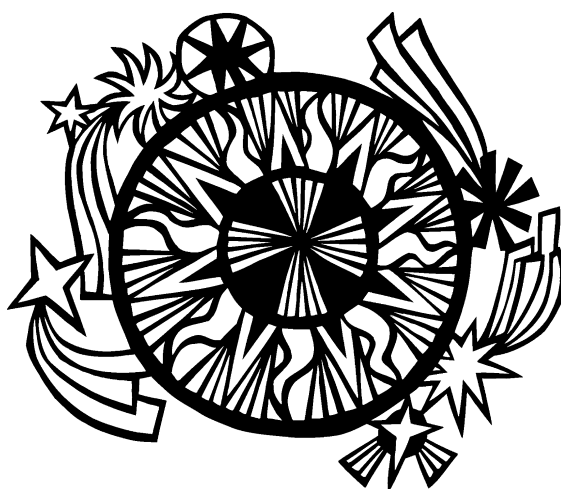
Come and see the mer - cy of the King,
Come and sing the prais - es of the King,

Bow - ing down be - fore Him.
Bow - ing down be - fore Him.

Him. For He is Lord a - bove the heav - ens,
Lord in all the earth. Lord of all the an - gels,

Wor - thy to be served. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord.



CONFESSION

Seminarian Lord of the universe, here in this place we seek your presence.
We long for wisdom, inspiration and peace.

All Come, Holy Spirit, shine into our souls!

Seminarian Lord of all people, you call us your sons and daughters; you know us and love us. We long to know where you might lead us.

All Come, Holy Spirit, let your light shine on our way!

Seminarian Spirit of truth, pour your light into our souls and speak to us in this moment of silence.

Sacred Silence

Seminarian Lord, we are still caught in Adam's ways of sin and death. Together we confess:

**All We acknowledge that we have rebelled against you in many ways,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
Help us embrace and extend your love
through thoughts, words, and deeds.
You make everything new, including us.**

Pastor Jesus Christ, who conquered sin and death, is here among us. In him we begin anew every day, living in the glorious freedom of the children of God. In the tender compassion of our God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. May the blessings of God rest upon us all.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Please stand and sing.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Refrain

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

ADVENT WELCOME

The Advent Wreath will be lit by Joshua, Laura,
Annika, and Rory Magnuson.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE WORD

Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader Word of God, word of life.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader Word of God, word of life.
All **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Ancient Words**

Please stand and sing.

*Words and Music by
Lynn DeShazo*

VERSE 1

♩ = 63

E B E A B

1. Ho ly - words long pre - served for our walk in this world; They re - sound

5 C#m B/D# E E/G# F#m/A E/B B E

with God's own heart, O, let the an - cient words im - part;

Detailed description: The musical score is written for a single melodic line (treble clef) and a harmonic accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 63. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1-4, with lyrics '1. Ho ly - words long pre - served for our walk in this world; They re - sound'. Above the first staff, the notes E, B, E, A, B are written above the first five measures. The second system contains measures 5-8, with lyrics 'with God's own heart, O, let the an - cient words im - part;'. Above the second staff, the chords C#m, B/D#, E, E/G#, F#m/A, E/B, B, E are written above the measures. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.



Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Come Down
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

SONG OF THE DAY

Please stand and sing.

Lift up your heads

1 Lift up your heads, O you gates; swing wide, you
 2 Up from the dead he as - cends, through ev - 'ry
 3 With trum - pet blast and shouts of joy, all heav - en

ev - er - last - ing doors. Lift up your heads, O you
 rank of heav'n - ly pow'r. Let heav'n pre - pare the high - est
 greets the ris - en king. With an - gel choirs come line the

gates; swing wide, you ev - er - last - ing doors.
 place, throw wide the ev - er - last - ing doors.
 way, throw wide the gates and wel - come him.

Refrain

That the King of glo - ry may come in, that the
 King of glo - ry may come in; that the King of glo - ry
 may come in, that the King of glo - ry may come in.

Last time
 may come in.

APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

PRAYERS

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. After each portion of the prayers:

Asst. Min. Merciful God,
All receive our prayer.

At the end of the prayer:

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
All Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.
All And also with you.

*Please greet one another with words such as "God's peace be with you."
Please sit.*

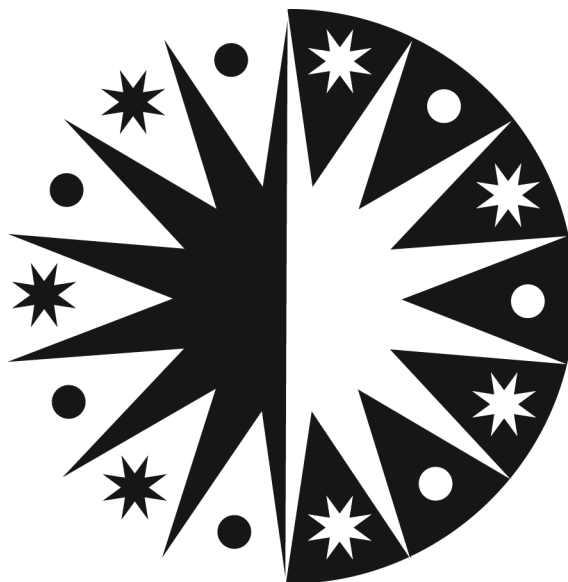
OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.
Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.*

Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.

OFFERING MUSIC

"All Who Are Thirsty" by Brenton Brown and Glen Roberts



SONG OF OFFERING
Please stand and sing.

PSALMODY, READINGS AND CANTICLES
From the Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen

Psalm 141

All:

All sing.

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
 fore you, the lift - ing up of my
 hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One:

Cantor sings.

O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two:

All sing.

O God, I

Cantor sings.

All sing.

now; O hear my voice when I
call to you, come to me now; O

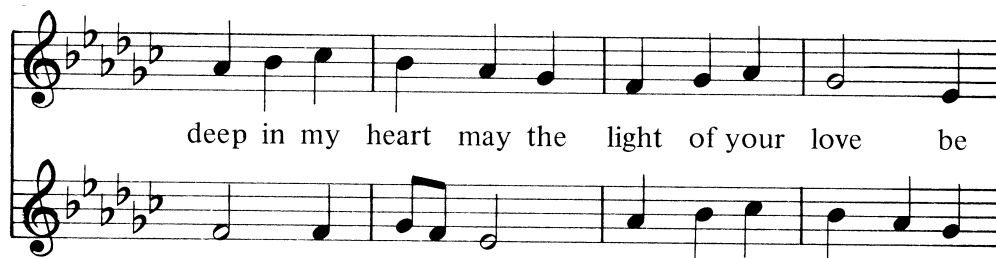
cry to you. ————— Let my prayer rise
hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

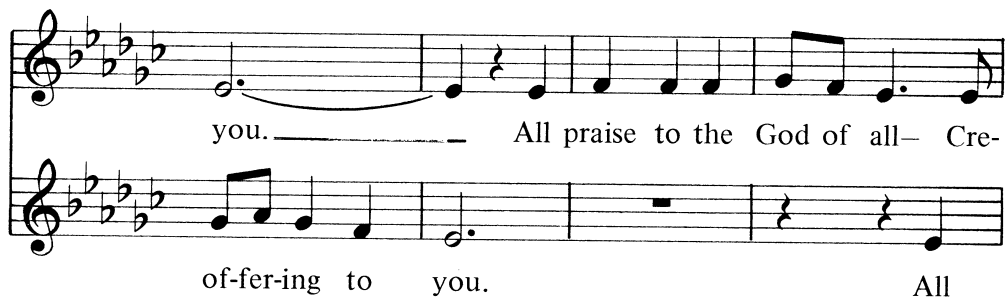
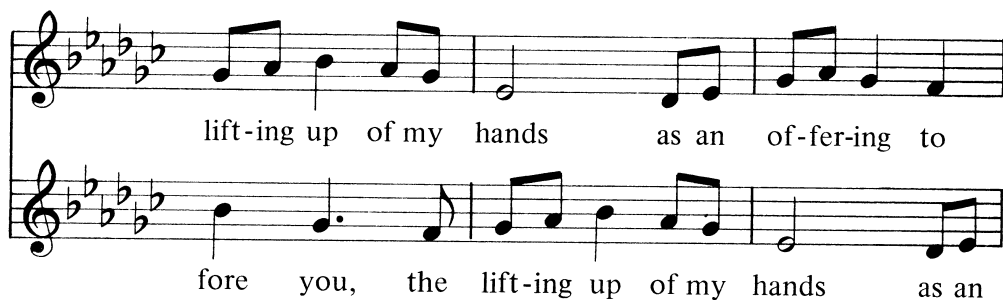
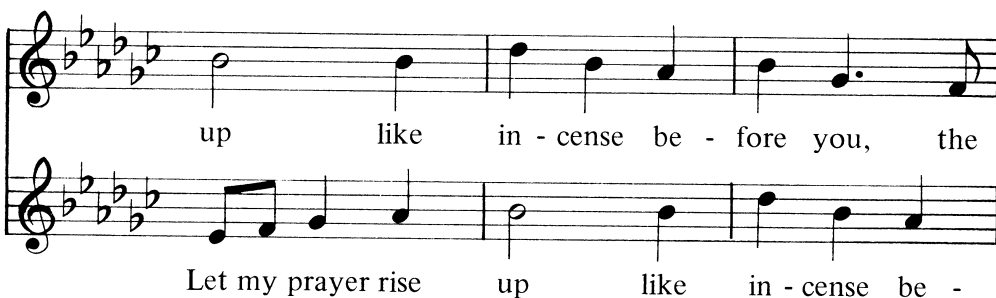
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. ————— Keep watch with - in me, God;
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

Cantor sings.



All sing.



Cantor sings.



a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

All sing.



praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all



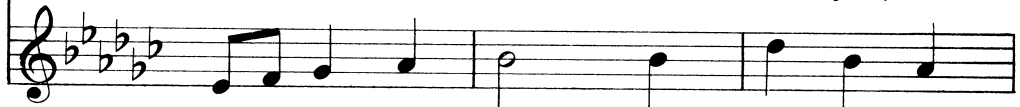
Spir - it of love. ————— Let my prayer rise



praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.



up like in - cense be - fore you, the



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to



fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



you. —————



of - fer - ing to you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.

All God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

MEAL

Pastor The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Our souls magnify you, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, for you are our Savior. In every generation, you have shown the lowly your favor and have blessed the poor in their need. When the time had come, you looked with favor on Mary in her lowliness and by the power of your Holy Spirit she gave birth to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

With all generations, we call you blessed, and with Mary and Joseph we rejoice in your saving help. Through them, through us, and through your whole Church you have done great things by your might and so with the saints, with angels and archangels, with all your people on earth and in heaven, we proclaim the holiness of your name:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor Come, for all is now ready.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. You are an important part of our faith community. For those taking Holy Communion: Pastor will give verbal instructions on how Holy Communion will be distributed.

COMMUNION SONG

All sing.

Here is bread

1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,

he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
he is with us. We'll pro - claim till he comes

Christ is with us here.
feast on Je - sus here.
Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

Refrain

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is
life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,
by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text and music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1993 Make Way Music, admin. Integrity Music, Inc.

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

Pastor May this bread of life and cup of salvation fill you with the hope, peace, joy, and love that can only come from Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
Generous God,
With this bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All Amen.

**BLESSING**

Pastor The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Holy Spirit + remain upon you
now and forever.

All Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

The King of glory

Refrain
 Em Bm⁷ Em

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

Em Bm⁷ Em

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

G C Bm/D D⁷ G

1 Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;
 4 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion;
 5 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Em CM⁷ G/B CM⁷ D⁷ G *Refrain*

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of ag - es.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 in all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

Text: Willard F. Jabusch
 Music: Israeli traditional
 Text © 1968, 1995 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications

DISMISSAL

Asst. Minister

All

Go in peace. Share Christ's Love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Winds of Grace

Have you ever experienced a powerful storm in which the sky grew increasingly dark and winds swirled the clouds or broke branches off trees? Our modern technology often allows us to prepare for storms like blizzards and hurricanes that develop slowly as they move toward us. Perhaps you've taken part in hastily boarding up windows, securing pets or farm animals, and gathering groceries and supplies in anticipation of being shut in or without power for a time.

The coming of the Son of Man will apparently not include advance warnings like those of meteorologists and weather apps, for Jesus says, "About that day or hour no one knows." It may be more like a tornado or thunderstorm, where we see that the conditions are right but can't be sure precisely when or where it will materialize. Our preparations for that type of storm are different, primarily focused on where and how we'll take shelter should lightning or a funnel cloud be spotted nearby. Many of us practiced tornado drills in school as kids; such practices, as well as storm watches and warnings, keep us aware of how to respond and alert about when to do so.

It is easy to hear Jesus' words and sound an alert for the end times. We might even spend time and energy worrying about the end and what it means for us. At the same time, the urgency of this proclamation is focused on the present, on what we can do here and now to be open to God's rule in our lives. This is a different kind of preparation, focused on loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

In the sacraments of baptism and communion we are invited into regular practices of anticipating the presence of God with us. In Advent we bring a particular focus to this expectation. We are invited to think about the ways the winds of grace gather us in, and then send us out for the sake of the world.

Christmas and New Year's Celebrations at Redeemer

During the holiday season, Redeemer will offer several holiday services:

December 6, 13, and 20 — **Wednesday Noonday Prayer**
Lunch at 11:30 am and Worship Noon—12:30 pm

December 6, and 13 - **Wednesday Evening Prayer**
5:30 - 6 pm on Zoom

December 15 - **Living Nativity**, Friday at 6:30 pm
and **Holiday Concert and Sing-Along** at 7:30 pm

December 20 — **Blue Christmas**, Wednesday
Dinner at 6 pm and Worship at 7 pm

December 24 - **Christmas Eve Services**:
10 am — Advent Worship Service (one service only)
4 pm — Children's Christmas Pageant
6, 8, 10 pm — Traditional Candlelight Services

December 25 - **Christmas Day** Service at 10 am (one service only)

December 31 - **Lessons and Carols**, Sunday at 10 am (one service only)
New Year's Eve Service at 5 pm

All are welcome to all services!

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

Hearing help available: We have for your use personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeemermclean.org

Next Sunday's Scripture:

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

*Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner
Great Thanksgiving was written by Mark Rowland*

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Please return this bulletin to the entrance hall for recycling if you choose not to take it home.