

+ Contemporary Worship +  
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am January 14, 2024

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



*All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*



## **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; it was a formless void and darkness covered the deep. God said: "Let there be light!"

**All And there was light.**

Pastor In the middle of life, when we become more aware of our flaws and the shadows that surround life, God calls us into the illuminating presence of His Word.

**All Lord, your Word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.**

Pastor In the fog of life, when good and evil compete and when our future is put in doubt, we are reminded of the true power of God in Christ Jesus.

**All The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
has come into the world.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

Pastor Epiphany is the season of light. As we continue our life's story, as we deal with challenges, pursue goals and occasionally fail, may we always know that Christ is our light.

**All Jesus said: I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life. Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**  
Please stand and sing.

# Celebrate the Lord of Love

WORDS and MUSIC: Paul Baloche, Ed Kerr

♩=116-124

Trade your heav - y heart for a heart of joy;

cel - e - brate what God has done.

Join the song of praise as we gath - er here;

cel - e - brate the Lord of Love. Je - sus is our Lord;

he is reign - ing here. We de - clare, "His king -

dom's come." Dark - ness has to flee in his ho - ly light;

cel - e - brate the Lord of Love. *Fine*

All cre - a - tion sings; hear the o - cean roar.

Let the earth pro - claim that Christ is Lord.

*C#/E# F#m7 B7sus D.C. al Fine*

## **CONFESSION**

Pastor Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be among them." Christ is here, in our hearts and souls as we gather for worship. Christ is here, to heal and redeem. Let us open our hearts and minds for God's healing ministry!

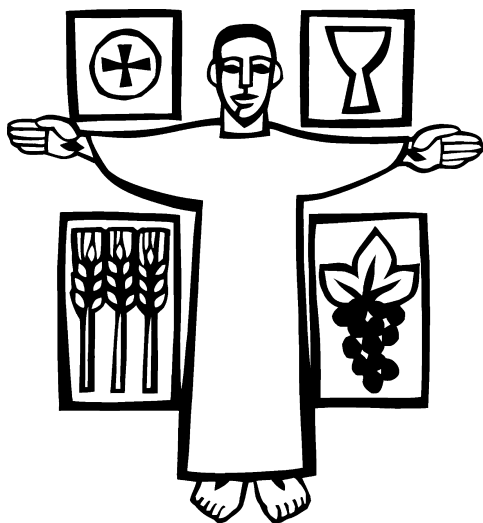
*Silence and reflection*

Pastor Most merciful God,  
**All Come into our lives,  
come and heal what is broken,  
correct what is sinful,  
bless what is small and tender,  
uncertain and in need of growth.  
Come into our lives  
and anoint our community  
that it may serve your kingdom  
in this world!**

Pastor The God of truth who renews us in body, mind and soul, grant us insight, foresight and a desire to follow the path of Christ. 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.  
Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**All Amen.**



## SONG OF PRAISE

*Please stand and sing.*

Open our eyes, Lord

D G<sup>2</sup> G Em<sup>7</sup>/A A<sup>7</sup>  
 O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
 Je - sus, to reach out and touch

Em A<sup>7</sup> G/D D<sup>2</sup> D  
 him, and say that we love him.

DM<sup>7</sup> A/G G Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>  
 O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

G/D D A Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A GM<sup>9</sup>  
 lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D  
 Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text and music: Bob Cull  
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## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.*

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.*

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
*Please stand and sing.*

**Thy Word**

*Words and Music by*  
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

**CHORUS**

♩ = 70      F      C/E      F      B♭/D      C      F

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

5      C/E      F      B♭/D      C      F      *Fine*

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

CCLI Song # 14301

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

**Gospel: John 1:43–51**

*In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

**SERMON**

*Speak, Lord*  
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

*Please stand and sing.*

## Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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## **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. God of grace,

**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**

*'What a Beautiful Name' by Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood*

**SONG OF OFFERING**  
*Please stand and sing.*

We are an offering

Text and music: Dwight Liles  
 Text and music © 1984 Bug and Bear Music, admin: Word Music, Inc.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our  
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor Let us pray.  
 All **Blessed are you, Holy One,  
 for all good things come from you.  
 In the bread and the wine you open heaven to us.  
 Meet us at this table,  
 that we receive what we seek  
 and follow your Son, Jesus,  
 in whose name we pray.  
 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 Revealing God we give thanks and praise to you. You send your light into the world, and in that light we see the truth of who you are and the truth of who we are. You call us to worship you. You direct us to yourself. You become what we are that we might become what you are. And so with the choirs of angels gathered around your eternal throne we join in their hymn of unending praise:  
 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.

# I Will Follow

John Barbour and Anne Barbour

D D/C# Bm7 Dmaj7/A

1. Fa - ther, al - ways near, I wait for You here,  
2. Suf - fer me to come, ris - en, wound - ed One,  
3. May Your King - dom come, may Your will be done,

G D/F# A/C# D G2/B 3 A7sus A

Rest - ing in the love that van - quish - es fear.  
I've found shel - ter in Your fa - ther - ing arms.  
Fa - ther in heav - en, lift my eyes to the sky.

G2(#4) D/F# Em7(4) Bm7

Wait - ing, not a care, si - lence ev - 'ry - where.  
Suf - fer me to hear Your voice in my ear.  
One day I will see heav - en's Roy - al - ty,

G D/F# A D G2/B A7sus A7

Yet here in my heart a still small voice  
Beck - on me with words that draw me near.  
Till the day the trum - pet rings in my ear.

G2/B A/C# D D/F# G Bm Asus A

Bids me to come and I will fol -  
Bid me to come and I will fol -  
Bid me to come and I will fol -

1.3. Last time: Fine 2. G2

low. low. I will

D/F# G2

fol - low where You want me to.

Asus A D.C. al Fine

I will fol - low You.



### **TABLE BLESSING**

*Please stand.*

Pastor      May the body and blood of Christ fill you with all love and peace, this day and always.

**All            Amen.**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Asst. Min.    Let us pray.  
                   Giver of every gift,  
                   Raise us to new life by your power  
                   in Christ's body and blood,  
                   for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
                   now and forever.

**All            Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor      God who names you,  
                   Christ who claims you,  
                   and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
                   + bless you and remain with you always.

**All            Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**  
*All sing.*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column starting on the first line of music and the second and third columns starting on the second and third lines of music respectively. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

**DISMISSAL**

Asst. Min.

**All**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE**

## Faith, Seen and Unseen

"Follow me," says Jesus to Philip. Then "Come and see," says Philip to Nathanael. Early in the Gospel of John and in Jesus' public ministry, the movement is already spreading. This transmission of faith from person to person is something like a fire jumping from one twig to another.

Sometimes, though, it can feel as if the spark just isn't catching—not much transmission is happening any longer. Many people lament that their children, grandchildren, or other loved ones have abandoned the Christian faith. But have they truly? Maybe, similar to Nathanael, they have not yet personally encountered Jesus. Nathanael questions and doubts the words of the witness Philip until he experiences for himself that Jesus is the Son of God. Just as the message of the good news can spread like fire from twig to twig, so can faith ignite—or reignite—when one has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. There is no miracle for pastors or others to perform; we are simply called to prepare the way, to welcome all of God's children, and to accompany people no matter where they are on their faith journey.

To change metaphors, sometimes faith flows like an underground stream. In some limestone terrains, a stream of water might disappear from the surface and reappear farther along in a different kind of terrain. The fact that the stream can't be seen doesn't mean it has stopped flowing. Likewise, faith is sometimes difficult to identify, but that doesn't mean it's not flowing in and through someone's life. Visible signs of Jesus at work in a person are not always where or in the form we expect to see them. They can be in Sunday worship or in daily acts of kindness, compassion, grace, and love for ourselves and for others. Only Jesus knows what is in our hearts—already burning, deeply flowing, or yet to spark.

## 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](mailto:Church@redeemermclean.org)

*Next Sunday's Scripture:*

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20*

*The flowers are given to the glory of God.*

*Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner.*

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