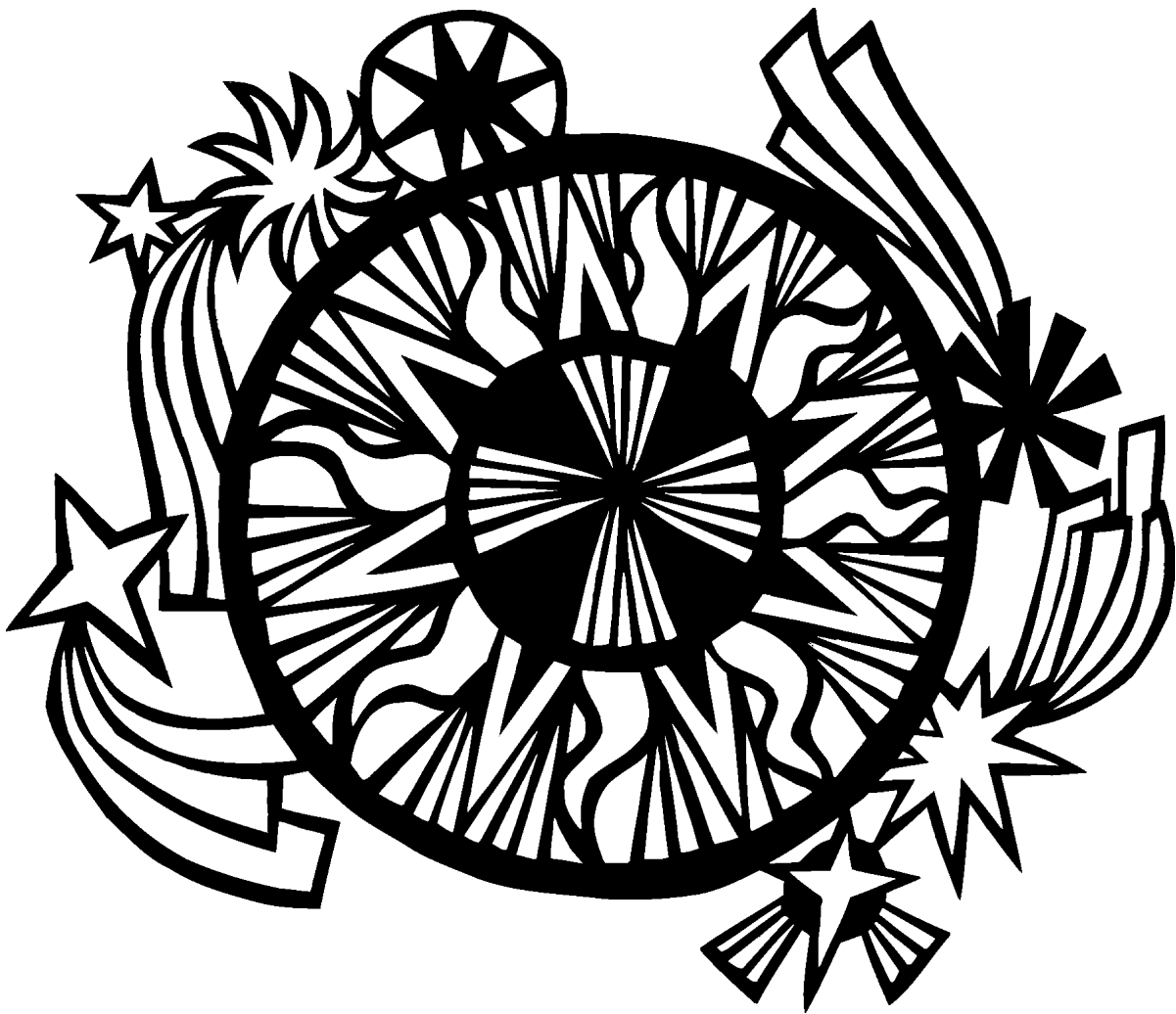


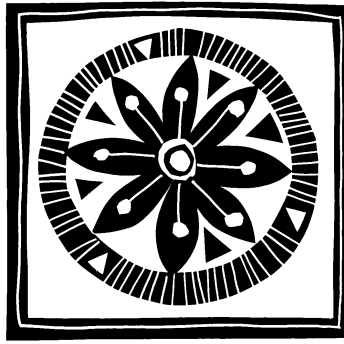
+ Contemporary Worship +
At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am January 4, 2026

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



The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.



+ WELCOME TO WORSHIP +

PRELUDE

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Pastor ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to the king's son;
All ² **that he may rule your people righteously**
 and the poor with justice;
- Pastor ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
All ⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,**
 rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- Pastor ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
 from one generation to another.
All ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,**
 like showers that water the earth.
- Pastor ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
All ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,**
 and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
- Pastor ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
 and all the nations do him service.
All ¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,**
 the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
- Pastor ¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
 and preserves the lives of the needy.
All ¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,**
 and precious is their blood in his sight.

GATHERING SONG
All sing.

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain



Shine on on me, shine on on me:
Shine on on me, shine on on me:

Confession of Sin

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

All Amen.

Pastor Gracious God,

All have mercy on us.

**We confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

Pastor God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
+ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.
O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.
Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to
the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ THE WORD +

Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

- ¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

Please stand and sing.

I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will
sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mer - cies of the
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known thy
faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1
Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

Pastor
All

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

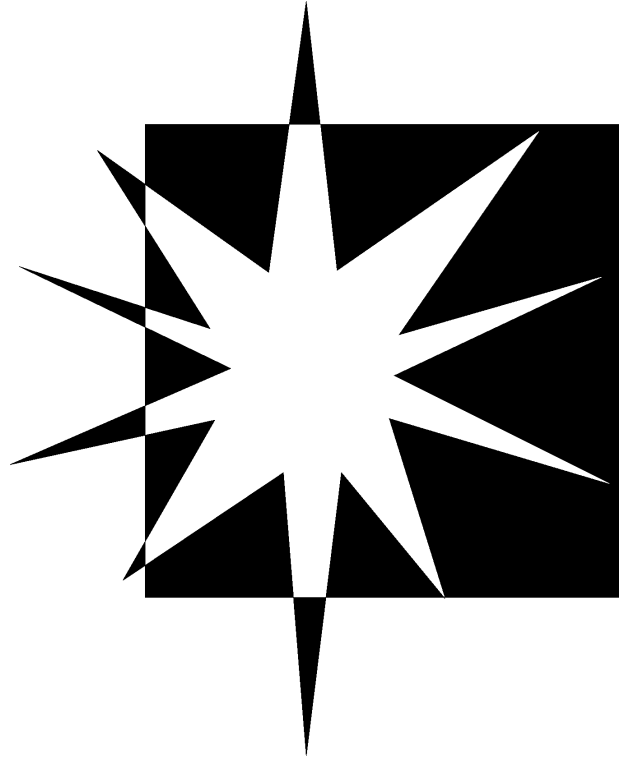
¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they

set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Pastor
All

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

SERMON

Star Words
Pastor Sharon Core



Please stand and sing.

Emmanuel

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b
 Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C[#] Dm G⁷ G/B C
 his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B_b
 God with us, re - vealed in us;

A A/C[#] Dm G⁷ F/C C
 his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Text and music: Bob McGee
Text and music © 1976 C. A. Music

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 May 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."

Sit

+ SHARING OUR GIFTS +

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Our offerings to God are first of all just that—offerings of thanksgiving to God. As you are able please continue to support our ministry with your financial gifts.

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

OFFERTORY SONG

“Mary, Did You Know” by Buddy Greene, Raeshawn Parker, solo

OFFERTORY

Please stand and sing.

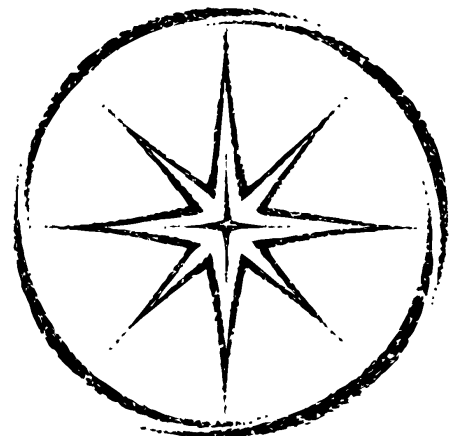
We are an offering

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering'. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, C², Dm⁷, C²/E, C/E on the first staff; F, C/E, Dm⁷, Dm⁷/G, C on the second staff. There are triplets marked with a '3' over the notes in the second staff.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.
All **Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice
and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.**



+ COME TO THE TABLE +

THE BLESSING OF THE SACRISTY

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.



COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be offered by intinction.

For those not comfortable receiving from the pastor's hands, a separate tray with preset elements is available. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine is invited to come forward for a blessing. To receive a blessing, please cross your arms.
You are an important part of our faith community.*

In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Christ.

COMMUNION SONG
All sing.

O Redeeming One

Luke 1:68–69, 78–79



1. Je-sus, you are light in the dark - est place; in a
2. Je-sus, you are hope in a hope - less land; you're my
3. Je-sus, you are truth in a world turned grey; you're the



world of sor - row you're my song of praise. You're the
 so - lid rock when there's sink - ing sand. You're my
 lamp that guides all a - long the way. Though I



sac - ri - fice that has saved my soul; you're the
 shel - ter from eve - ry troub - led storm; in the
 fall in sin, still you pick me up; when I



heal - ing balm that has made me whole. O re -
 cold - est night your love keeps me warm.
 thirst for you, you will fill my cup.



deem - ing one! You have set me free, for you know me well, yet you



still love me. I will sing your praise 'til your face I see!



Then I'll be with you, and you'll be with me. me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Dan Adler

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Please stand.

Pastor

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood,
strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

All

Amen.

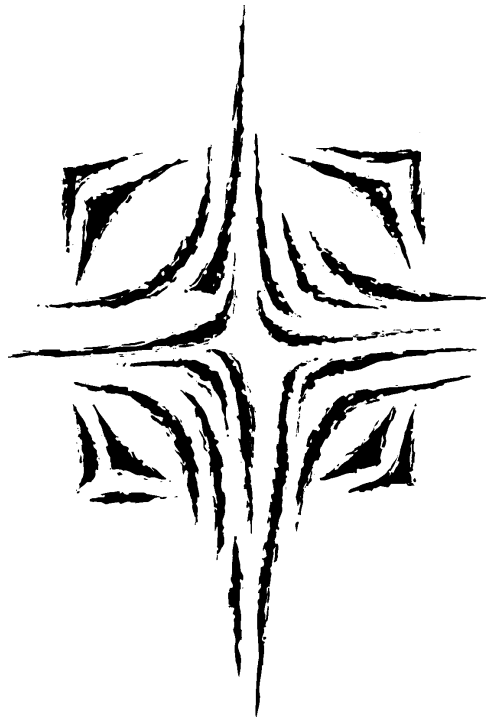
PRAYER

Asst. Min.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make
known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All

Amen.



+ THE SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Pastor

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in
harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

All

Amen.

Pastor

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you
may abound in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All

Amen.

Pastor

The God of grace + bless you now and forever.

All

Amen.

SENDING SONG
All sing.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min. Go in peace. Share the good news.
All Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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.

Email: church@redeemermclean.org

Hearing help available: We have personal hearing amplification units available for your use. Please speak with the person at the sound board.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Sunday Services:

8:30 and 11 am for traditional services and 9:45 am for the contemporary service

Next Sunday's Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

In This Kind of Time

Make no mistake: The world with the guiding star from the east, where covert seekers of signs traveled by night vision, desperate to find a child king, was not a mockup for mantelpiece arrangements swaddled in soft light; not a trio of characters auditioning for some future, twinkling-light Christmas pageant or a living-nativity reenactment. That world was a troubled world, a desperate world, an unfair and brutal world, where wealth bought power, and where ruthlessness and fear danced a deadly tango. It was a world under empire; a world choked by Herod; a world of injustice and occupation, threats and massacre, of fragile hope and cementing anger.

In such a world, during such a time, came some traveling souls. Seeking. Searching. Pursuing. Risking. Wanting. Needing. Offering. Bravely daring a heavenly light to fail them. "We have come to pay him homage," they confessed. Homage to one who was destined to be shepherd among the lowly, voice for the muted, provider for the hungry, mender for the worn-out, embrace for the dejected, but loser in the eyes of the empire. In other words, these travelers were defying the empire of greatness, denying its lies, and challenging its supremacy. They followed that strident light to offer gifts and to offer themselves, among lowliness.

In secret, the weight of empire wobbles. Herod plots. The powers conspire. A king is frightened.

In such a time . . . Epiphany happens! This awakening breaks forth—this fulgent way of seeing, this vision of God's direction in the now and the here; in this world, in yours, in theirs; in those circumstances and ours—a startling, unrelenting shaft, or a motioning illumination, to beckon God's beloved people, God's treasured creation, out of darkness by another road.

Epiphany, in this kind of time.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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