

Visitors

We want to welcome you to the church and introduce ourselves to you! We also have some information available if you'd like to know more about Redeemer. After worship, please come to the Welcome Table so we can meet you!

Please also take a moment to fill out the form on the inside back cover of this bulletin and drop it in the offering box.

To Parents

During corporate worship, God meets with His people in a special way. We believe, because of the promises of God, that our children are as much a part of the church as everyone else, and that they should participate in worship along with their families as much as they are able.

Nurseries

We have nurseries available during the worship service for infants and toddlers ages 3 months to 3 years.

Children in Worship

We understand the challenges of getting children accustomed to being in the service the whole time. We want to assist you in helping your children learn to participate in worship in a meaningful way.

During the sermon, children age 4 through the end of kindergarten may attend ***Training in the Pews*** children's worship. Volunteers will escort children and return them after the sermon.

Sermon time binders are available for children before the sermon at the back of the auditorium.

We completely understand that, generally speaking, kids tend to be a bit noisy and squirmy. Please know that it is something we expect, and that there is no reason to feel embarrassed if your children have some trouble adjusting to corporate worship. We've all experienced the blessed struggle of training our children to participate in worship, so if yours are still in the process, you're certainly not alone!

We do not at all believe that we get to have worship on our own terms, but on God's terms. God welcomes your children into this service of worship, squirminess and all, and so do we.

Redeemer's Vision

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is a missional *community* moved by the *grace* of the *Redeemer*, Jesus Christ, to *worship* and *know* God and to *love* and *serve* our *neighbors* in *Temple* and *beyond*.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

For more information about Redeemer Church, visit www.redeemerprestemple.org.

For more information about the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), visit www.pcanet.org.

Book Table: The books found here are designed to assist you in understanding the Christian life and to encourage your spiritual growth. To purchase a book or CD, please place your money in the envelope labeled "Book \$". Please make all checks payable to Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

As you find your seat, please move toward the center of your section, leaving the aisle seats for those coming in after you.

Thanks.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:00 a.m.

In consideration of other worshippers, please program all communication devices to silent or vibrate mode.

Parents, our nursery is available for infants and toddlers ages 3 months to 3 years. Turn left out of the auditorium and down the hall immediately to the left. The nurseries are located up the stairs at the end of the hall. Ask a greeter if you need directions. Babies and toddlers are also welcome in the worship service.

Children age 4 through the end of kindergarten may attend *Training in the Pews* during the sermon.

Sermon time binders are available for children before the sermon at the back of the auditorium.

Bibles are available on the table in the hallway for your use during the service.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Jason Smith

Meditation and Preparation for Worship

“ . . . the promise of a seed is not new in Genesis 12. The seed promise began when God cursed the tempting serpent:

And I will put enmity
 between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
 and you will strike his heel. (Gen. 3:15)

God made this Garden promise to all people, to all creation. It extended hope to all that the problem of sin will be dealt with This seed, stretching back through Shem to Noah, from Noah to Seth, and from Seth to Adam, will be the divine vehicle for bringing redemption to the world, a vehicle that will ultimately bring forth a Messiah, a Savior. . .

In light of the reality that it is through Abraham and his descendants that God plans to bring redemptive blessing to all the nations of the world, and that that redemption takes place only in Jesus Christ, we are, of course, right to see that Genesis 12 refers ultimately to Jesus.”

-Michael D. Williams, *Far as the Curse Is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption* (pp. III-12)

God's Supremacy

*Call to Worship

Rev. David Rapp

Zechariah 9:9

Minister: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

*Hymn of Adoration

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God,
Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
very God,
begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God
in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
late in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Public Domain

Words: Latin hymn

Attributed to John Francis Wade, 1751

Translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Music: John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

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God's Supremacy

*Prayer of Invocation

Rev. David Rapp

*Affirmation of Faith

Dr. Jason Smith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A #22

Leader: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

**All: Christ, the Son of God, became man,
by taking to himself a true body,
and a reasonable soul,
being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost,
in the womb of the virgin Mary,
and born of her,
yet without sin.**

*Doxology

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (v. 3)

Regent Square

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Public Domain
Words: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825
Music: Henry Smart, 1867
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God's Renewal

Scripture Warning

Dr. Jason Smith

Hebrews 2:1-4

Leader: “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Corporate Confession of Sin

**All: Merciful God, I have sinned times without number,
 and been guilty of pride and unbelief,
 and of neglect to seek you in my daily life.
 My sins and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations,
 but I thank you that they will not stand against me,
 for all have been laid on Christ.
 Deliver me from every evil habit,
 every interest of former sins,
 everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me,
 everything that prevents me taking delight in you. Amen.**

Silent Confession

God's Renewal

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Words: *Liturgy of St. James*, 5th cent.

Adapted by Gerard Moultrie, 1864

Music: French melody, 17th cent.

Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

Rev. David Rapp

Hebrews 2:14-18

Minister: *For all who have confessed their sins and have trusted in Christ alone for salvation, hear this word of assurance:* "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

God's Grace

*Song of Assurance

And Can It Be

1. And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain!
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

Chorus:

Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

2. He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

(Repeat chorus)

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

(Repeat chorus)

4. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

(Repeat chorus)

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Words: Charles Wesley, 1738
Music: Scott Roley
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*Scripture Reading

Luke 1:67-80

Dr. Ken Smith

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

God's Grace

Extending the Redeemer's Mission

Mrs. Janelle Albrecht

Women's Retreat

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. David Rapp

The Lord's Prayer

**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 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.**

*The Greeting of Peace

Rev. David Rapp

Minister: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

At the parents' discretion, children age 4 through the end of kindergarten may attend Training in the Pews (Children's Worship). Children should meet at the back of the auditorium to be escorted by volunteers to Wendland Hall. After the sermon, volunteers will bring the children to the back of the auditorium, where you may meet them or have them join you in your seats. Sermon time binders are available for children before the sermon at the back of the auditorium. Please return them to the box after the service.

*Scripture Reading (p. 9)

Rev. David Rapp

Prayer of Illumination

Rev. David Rapp

The Sermon

The Promise of Blessing to the World
Genesis 12:1-3

Rev. David Rapp

Genesis 12:1-3

12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Notes

Celebration of Holy Communion

Preparation for Communion

This is a time for all of us to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving") is a time to meet with their Savior by faith to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. The Lord's Supper is a joyful celebration in which the family of God together delights in the presence and salvation of their Redeemer King. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the Gospel, are at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ.

A Word to Parents:

Children are invited to come forward, either to receive communion or a prayer of blessing. To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the Session (elders) of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. If your children will not be receiving communion, please instruct them to come forward with their arms crossed to receive a prayer of blessing. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table and ask that you speak with the pastor when you believe your child is ready to begin the process.

Preparing our Hearts to be Fed

Rev. David Rapp

-The Heidelberg Catechism Q/A #35

Minister: What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

**All: That the eternal Son of God,
 who is and remains
 true and eternal God,
took to himself,
 through the working of the Holy Spirit,
 from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature
 so that he might become David's true descendant,
 like his brothers in every way
 except for sin.**

Words of Institution

Rev. David Rapp

Words of Response

Rev. David Rapp

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All: Hallelujah!

The Communion

*If you are participating, when you are ready, please join the line coming down the right center aisle. You will make your way past the servers at the front to receive the elements. Then, please return to your seat by way of the left center aisle. If you wish to bring an offering to the Lord, please place it in the box at the back of the room as you return to your seat. **We use wine** in communion and drink from a common cup. Individual cups are available in the trays, with **grape juice in the center ring** which may be requested by those who desire it. A **gluten-free cracker** is available upon request for those unable to eat the bread due to allergies.*

The Offering

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

In response to God’s grace to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we bring gifts and offerings to the Lord with thanksgiving and joy. Worshipers may place their gifts in the offering box at the back as they return to their seats.

Prayers for Those Not Communing

Because Redeemer is a church that is not only for convinced Christians, but also for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we gladly extend room for you to process, think, and dialogue. Use the prayers provided below as guides to reflect upon and respond to what God is doing in your life.

Prayer for Those Searching for 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 Christ, 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 thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. 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 to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Communion Song

Behold The Lamb

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us— and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.

2. The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
torn for you— eat and remember;
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.

3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you— drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.

4. And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond— and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
around the table of the King.

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1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Public Domain
Words: Traditional English carol
Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865
Music: English melody, 16th cent.
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God's Blessing

*Song

In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! Who took on flesh;
Fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost it's grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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*Benediction

Rev. David Rapp

Romans 16:25-27

Minister: "Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen."

Postlude

Weekly Prayer Guide

We are praying that God would do mighty, transforming works in our hearts, in our families, in our church, in our city, and in our world. Here are some categories which we use to pray during our corporate worship services. You are encouraged to use this list at home during your private and family worship times to help you join with Redeemer as we together petition our Father, asking that His Kingdom would come in ever greater measure.

Growth in the Gospel of Grace: For spiritual growth as individuals and as a church

Local Mission: Praying for the work of the Gospel in Temple

Global Mission: Praying for God’s work around the world

State/Society/World: Praying for civil authorities and Christians’ witness in the world

Special Care: Praying for people who are sick or in other need

Vision: Praying for God to build his Church

Prayer Needs

If you would like someone to pray for or with you, please consider the following:

1. We encourage everyone to be a part of a Community Group to build relationships with people who will know you and pray for you.
2. Contact the pastor, David Rapp, or another one of our elders. They would love to talk with you and pray for you. (Contact info on the following page.)

Financial Giving Report

	<u>Congregational Giving</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Variance</u>
2017 Jan.-Nov.	\$265,894.69	\$366,083.74	\$316,559.20	(\$50,664.51)
2017 Nov.	\$18,843.25	\$33,280.34	\$25,242.63	(\$6,399.38)
2017 Oct.	\$33,590.00	\$33,280.34	\$22,815.10	\$10,774.90

***Thank you for your faithful and generous giving to Jesus’ mission through Redeemer!

CHURCH OFFICERS & STAFF

Session

Teaching Elder		
David Rapp	david@redeemerprestemple.org	254.760.4246
Ruling Elders		
Grant Demers	grant.demers@gmail.com	512.576.5378
Heath Robinson	bheathr@gmail.com	254.421.3916
Jason Smith	jason.d.smith4@gmail.com	817.808.0682
Jeff White	jeffwhite02@hotmail.com	254.541.9995

Staff

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Susan Hayes	susan@redeemerprestemple.org	910.580.4834
Admin. Asst. - Janelle Albrecht	janelle@redeemerprestemple.org	
Worship Set-Up Coordinator - Chad Van Cleave		512.497.0604
Bookkeeper - Jill MacLaughlin	bookkeeper@redeemerprestemple.org	

Musicians

Vocalist:	Dr. David Joffrion
Piano:	Dr. Josh Albrecht
Guitar:	Dr. David Joffrion
Bass Guitar:	Mr. Jaime Madrid
Percussion:	Mr. Calvin Smith

Events and Announcements

What else is happening at Redeemer?

* Get Connected on ***The City*** to find out!!!
 redeemerprestemple.onthecity.org/kiosk/92955/signup

* **Redeemer Midweek will break for the holidays, and begin again on January 10th, 2018.**

* ***Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols at the CAC!*** Sunday, Dec. 24th - 6:00 p.m.
Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Bring holiday cookies & treats to share.

* **Women's Retreat** - Mar. 2-4, 2018
 The Retreat at Balcones Springs - Marble Falls, TX

Would you like to receive email updates from Redeemer?
 If so, please contact us at info@redeemerprestemple.org

Visitors

We want to welcome you to the church and introduce ourselves to you! We would love to answer any questions you may have and tell you more about Redeemer. After worship, please come to the Welcome Table so we can meet you. If you would like to receive weekly updates from Redeemer, please send an e-mail to info@redeemerprestemple.org.

Please take a moment to fill out the form below and drop it in the offering box.

Today's Date _____

Mr./Mrs./Ms. (first) _____

(last) _____

Spouse (if applicable) _____

Children	Age
----------	-----

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email: _____

Add to the Redeemer email list? Yes___ No thanks___

Attendance (please circle one)

First Time Guest Repeat Guest

___ I would like to be contacted to receive more information about Redeemer