

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent: Christmas Eve

December 24, 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

Rev. David Rapp

Meditation and Preparation for Worship

“Today most of us live in a world of hyperindividualism, and so such talk of our union with Adam or union with Christ sounds weird—and as factual as a unicorn. Because we think we don’t *really* have any unity with Adam, it even sounds unfair. Why must *I* suffer because of what *he* did? . . . But that individualism has mutilated our view of the Christian good news, turning it into a *little* message, an ad for the consumer: “Come and add something to your life . . . have some grace.” Paul . . . saw a far deeper problem and a far grander vision. Our plight, he saw, is not merely that we each fail to be good enough and need a little forgiveness. . . . Instead, our very *identity* is a problem. We were born of Adam. There is no hope for us in trying harder or getting some divine leniency. Our only hope is to be taken out of Adam’s old humanity, to be born *again* into a new humanity, to be a new creation. How, then, on that dark day of the fall, must Adam and Eve have thrilled to hear of the Seed, the offspring, the child who would bruise the serpent’s head (Gen 3:15)! Nothing else would suffice. Born not of a man but the seed of *woman*, a son who must then be provided specially by God. Here was the hope of life for Adam and all in him.”

-Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ* (pp. 42-43)

God's Supremacy

*Call to Worship

Rev. David Rapp

Psalm 98:1, 3-4, 6

Minister: "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. . . . He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! . . . With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!"

*Song of Adoration

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Chorus:

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

1. He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

(Repeat chorus)

2. He comes with comfort speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;

3. To give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in His sight.

(Repeat chorus)

4. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in His path to birth.

(Repeat chorus)

5. The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His Name shall stand forever,
That Name to us is Love.

(Repeat chorus)

Based on Psalm 72
©2012 Drink Your Tea Music (ASCAP)
Admin. by Simpleville, INC
Words: James Montgomery, 1821 (alt. McCracken)
Music: Sandra McCracken
CCLI License #3250239

God's Supremacy

*Prayer of Invocation

Rev. David Rapp

*Affirmation of Faith

Mr. Heath Robinson

The Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A #27

Leader: Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

**All: Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born,
and that in a low condition,
made under the law,
undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God,
and the cursed death of the cross;
in being buried,
and continuing under the power of death for a time.**

*Doxology

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (v. 4)

Regent Square

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Public Domain
Words: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825
Music: Henry Smart, 1867
CCLI License #3250239

God's Renewal

The Law of God

Rev. David Rapp

Matthew 22:37-40

Minister: “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.””

Corporate Confession of Sin

**All: Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess
 that we have sinned against You
 in thought, word, and deed;
 we have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength;
 we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
 Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done,
 and the good we have left undone.
 Lord, You are full of compassion and gracious,
 slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy;
 there is always forgiveness with You!
 Restore to us the joy of Your salvation;
 bind up that which is broken,
 give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls.
 Speak to each of us, and let Your Word abide with us
 until it has wrought in us Your holy will. Amen.**

Silent Confession

God's Renewal

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Day-spring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

5. O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Public Domain
Latin antiphons, 12th cent.
Words: Latin hymn, 1710
Translated: John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961
Music: Plainsong, 13th cent.
Arranged by Thomas Helmore, 1856
CCLI License #3250239

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

Rev. David Rapp

Galatians 4:4-7

Minister: *For all who have confessed their sins and have fled to Christ for mercy, hear this word of assurance:* "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

God's Grace

*Song of Assurance God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"let nothing you afright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4. The shepherds at those tidings
re-joic-ed much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feed-ing,
in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straightway,
the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Public Domain
Words: English carol, 18th cent.
Music: English melody, 18th cent.
CCLI License #3250239

*Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55

Mrs. Jennifer Rapp

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

God's Grace

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. David Rapp

Silent Prayers of Thanksgiving and Petition

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

Why Jesus Came Into the World
1 Timothy 1:8-17

Rev. David Rapp

I Timothy 1:8-17

1:8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 #36

Minister: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

**All: He is our mediator,
and with his innocence and perfect holiness
he removes from God's sight
my sin—mine since I was conceived.**

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.

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Public Domain
Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818
Music: Franz Gruber, 1818
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1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.
Glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis Deo,
glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis Deo,
glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis Deo,
glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis Deo.

Public Domain
Words: Traditional French carol
Music: Traditional French melody
Arranged by Edward S. Barnes, 1937
CCLI License #3250239

God's Blessing

*Song

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart
Prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make
His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of
His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Public Domain
Based on Psalm 98
Words: Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arranged by Lowell Mason, 1836
CCLI License #3250239

*Benediction

Rev. David Rapp

Jude 24-25

Minister: "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. 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

Senior Pastor		
David Rapp	david@redeemerprestemple.org	254.760.4246
Director of Nursery and Children's Ministry		
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. Skip Culp
Guitar:	Dr. David Joffrion
Bass Guitar:	Mr. Jaime Madrid
Percussion:	Mr. Calvin Smith
Violin:	Mr. Michael MacLaughlin

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!** TONIGHT at 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