

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Kellen Eddy will be preaching on Hebrews 7:23-28



Hope Fulfilled

BY WINFREE BRISLEY

What's Going On

Sun. 12/21

Christmas Sunday; Prayer Gathering for the Swansons after the service

12/24-12/31

Church Office Closed

Sun. 12/28

Sunday Worship @ 10am (Hebrews 8:1-13); Communion Sunday

Wed. 12/31

No Youth Discipleship

Thur. 01/01

No Prayer Gathering

Sat. 01/10/26

Connect Conference

03/27/26-03/29/26

Women's Retreat

READ

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (*John 1:45*)

REFLECT

One of our favorite family stories is about the time my husband's cousin made a particularly ambitious Christmas list. He copied down practically every item from a thick toy catalog. Then he added one final request: surprises.

Many of us go to great lengths to pull off a Christmas morning surprise. Even now, you may have gifts hidden away, tucked into nooks and crannies, or delivered to a neighbor's house for safekeeping. Perhaps you've hunted down a gift that's nearly impossible to secure. Maybe you'll be up late on Christmas Eve doing a last-minute assembly.

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Surprises can be delightful to give and receive, creating a sense of wonder and excitement around Christmas. But as we enjoy them, it's good to remember that the advent of Christ wasn't meant to be a surprise. God had been promising his people a serpent-crushing offspring from the earliest pages of the Bible (Gen. 3:15). The real story of Christmas isn't a story of surprise but of fulfillment.

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Through the Old Testament prophets, God revealed quite a bit of information about the coming Messiah. Jeremiah said he would be a king from the line of David (Jer. 23:5–6). Micah foretold he would come from the town of Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2). Isaiah said he would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14). Years ahead of time, God promised his people a Savior and gave specific details about his coming.

So when Philip went to share the news that Christ had come, notice what he said: "We have found him of whom Moses . . . and also the prophets wrote" (John 1:45). He didn't say, "Surprise! God sent a Savior." He said, "We have found him." They knew the Messiah was coming. They were expecting him. Finding Jesus, for them, was confirmation of God's faithfulness.

And that's the story of Christmas for us too. The advent of Christ is a vivid reminder that God does what he says he will do, down to the last detail. Don't skip over the details the Gospel writers record about the birth of Christ. It's not extra fluff to fill out the story. In Matthew's account of Christ's birth, five times he writes something like "This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet" (see Matt. 1:22; 2:5, 15, 17, 23). Why does Matthew repeatedly point out the fulfillment of prophecy? Because it shows us God's faithfulness.

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Pray:

- Carla Aubineau; Canon Eddy; Cathe Rudell: Baptized on 11/23.
- Cindy Berg (Wife of Bill); Healing & peace during recovery from back surgery.
- Phil de Bliek & family: Following the passing of his brother, Ray.
- Noel Dachauer: Wisdom on and healing for long-standing health issues.
- Jenn Welch: Recovery from surgery.
- Jenn Welch, Simone Mendieta, & family: Following the passing of Jenn's mom/Simone's grandma, Cheri.
- Robin Williams: For gospel seeds sown in others during missions trip to come to fruition.
- Shirley Oliver: Thanks that cancer's currently in remission; wisdom re: future ongoing treatment.

God's faithfulness in the Christmas story gives us hope in our own stories. Just as God promised to send Jesus, he promises to be with us now through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus came the first time, he promises to come again. We can look forward in hope, confidently anticipating Christ's second coming and the fulfillment of his promises to dwell with us forever (Rev. 21:3).

God may not give us everything on our wish list, but we can be sure he'll fulfill all the promises he has made. Great is his faithfulness!

Respond

How have you seen God's faithfulness to you in the past? In what areas of your life are you struggling to believe God's promises? What might it look like for you to find hope in God's faithfulness today?

Rejoice

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;*

*Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,*

*Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness!*

– Thomas Chisholm, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Brisley, Winfree. "Advent Meditation: Hope Fulfilled." The Gospel Coalition, 15 Dec. 2023, www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/advent-meditation-hope-fulfilled.



Points for Prayer:

- For our guests, NLP program participants, RGM staff, and volunteers, as Christmas time for some of us is a very stressful time, both mission-wide and personally.
- Pray for the men and women in our New Life Program, that they might know and feel the love and grace of Jesus Christ living in them.
- Pray for the people still out on the streets — many of them "without hope and without God in the world."



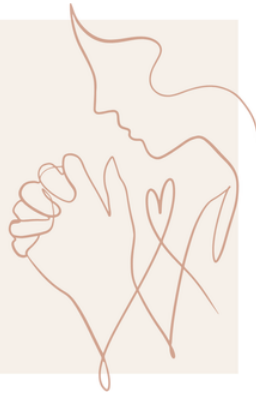
Points for Prayer:

- That we'll steward well the growth God has given us.
- That we'll continue to serve our neighbors well.
- That we'll raise the \$18k to reach the full potential of the matching grant.
- That our new sermon series in Philippians (The Cross-Shaped Imagination) will reap Kingdom dividends.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

PRAY

for the Swansons



Points for Prayer:

- Continued prayer against confusion and for clarity.
- Identification of the fungal source (there was a hotspot on the PET scan below the pacemaker in an area operated on in 2015, and they aren't sure what it is).
- Healing & eradication of the fungus.
- Protection against emboli.
- Removal of medication side-effects.
- Against spiritual attack and for God's peace and joy to reign continuously.
- Wisdom and direction regarding next steps.
- Thanksgiving: Experiencing God's presence.

PRAYER GATHERING

for the Swansons

after today's service

Connect 26 CONFERENCE



Dane Ortland



Tim Challies



Ryan Kwon



Worship by
Shane and Shane

JANUARY 10th, 2026
9am - 4pm

norcalconnectconference.com



Next week...

Communion
Sunday

join the

FOOD DISTRIBUTION TEAM

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
12:20 - 2:30pm

NEW TO REDEMPTION?

Hi there!

Whatever your background or situation, we're glad you've decided to join us this morning. You might find it helpful to know that:

- There are bathrooms available in the lobby and in the courtyard.
- Nursery services are available for infants. We also dismiss children for age-appropriate learning (toddlers through 5th Grade) during the main teaching time (except on the 5th Sunday of the month).
- A nursing room and changing facilities are available in the Sanctuary building.

Refreshments are available after the service - please stick around and say hi!

We look forward to getting to know you!

FIND COMMUNITY

Hungry for deeper, authentic relationships? We've got Men's, Women's, and Youth Discipleship Groups to help us grow together in grace. We meet weekly to discuss Scripture and pray. *Contact the Church Office for location and availability.*

Men's Groups

Mon. Evenings - Santa Rosa
Tues. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Weds. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Women's Groups

Weds. Mornings - Santa Rosa
Weds. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Thurs. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Youth (6th-12th Grade):

1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays of each month — RHC Campus.
Contact Kellen for more info: kellen@RedemptionHillSR.org



Get In Touch

Mailing address: P.O. Box 571,
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
office@RedemptionHillSR.org
Tel. 707-576-0130
Office hours: Tues 9 am - 5 pm

Ministry Team

Elders:

Tim Swanson - Pastor/Elder
Kelly Hubley - Elder

Staff:

Wendy Cunningham - Worship Ministry
Director
Kellen Eddy - Youth Ministry Director
John Hansen - Children's Ministry
Director
Sarah Mee - Church Administrative
Assistant / Tech Team Administrator
Alisa Swanson - Hospitality & Facilities
Administrator

First Aid

An AED and a Life-Vac anti-choking device are located in the Foyer. A box of other first aid supplies is in the Fireside Room, above the refrigerator.

LET'S CONNECT!

We'd love to get to know you better and welcome you into our family. If you're ready to get connected, please fill out a few details and leave this in the offering box on the back wall of the Sanctuary. Or, better still, scan this code and fill it out online. Someone will be in touch soon.

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Phone:



