

# WELCOME TO THE BANQUET

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023 | 11 AM

*Church of the Redeemer is committed to reducing paper use and exploring the expanded role of technology in worship.  
Please consider viewing this bulletin on a personal electronic device using the QR codes located on the back of the pews.*

## GATHERING SONG

HOSANNA

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able. The refrains are sung by all.*

### REFRAIN



Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

*Said by one*

Hear what the Lord Jesus Christ says:

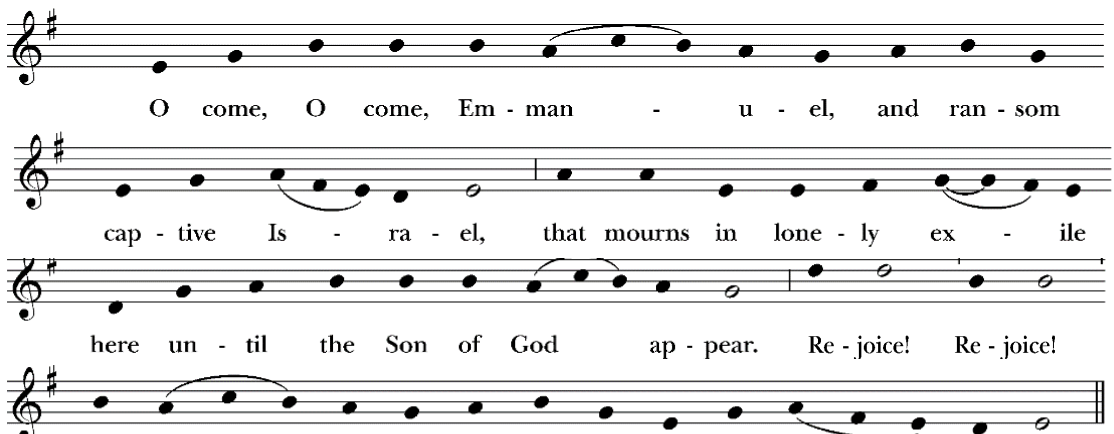
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

### REFRAIN



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## THE CANTICLE

*Said by all*

## MAGNIFICAT

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul magnifies your name, my God  
and my spirit rejoices in you my Savior,  
for You have looked with favor on your lowly servant:  
and from this day all generations will call me Blessed.  
You have done great things for me,  
Holy is your name.  
Mercy is for those who revere You  
from generation to generation.  
You have shown the strength of your arm:  
Scattering the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
You have brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
You have filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
You have come to the help of your own child, Israel:  
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,  
according to the promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever.

## READING

*Read by one*

MARK 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.  
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he  
will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the  
earth to the ends of heaven.  
  
"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its  
leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you  
know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away  
until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will  
not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## HOMILY AND CONVERSATION

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### BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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*Leader* God is

*All* **One God, the almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all that is - seen and unseen.**

*Leader* God is

*All* **Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, divine and human, our Savior. His life, death, and resurrection reveal to us that God is love.**

*Leader* God is

*All* **The Holy Spirit, at work in the world. Speaking through prophets past and present, inspiring us, holding us accountable, leading us to grow into the full stature of Christ.**

*Leader* With God's help

*All* **We will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.**

*Leader* With God's help

*All* **We will persevere in resisting evil, and when falling into sin, we will repent and return to God.**

*Leader* With God's help

*All* **We will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.**

*Leader* With God's help

*All* **We will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourself.**

*Leader* With God's help

*All* **We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.**

## PRAYERS

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- Intercessor* God of the prophets, give your Church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of the prophets!**
- Intercessor* God of the angels, give your Church voice to sing your presence into the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of the angels!**
- Intercessor* God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your Church grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of our mothers!**
- Intercessor* God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your Church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of our fathers!**
- Intercessor* God of the shepherds, give your Church the words to tell of what we've seen.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of the shepherds!**
- Intercessor* God of the magi, give your Church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among the poor.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of the magi!**
- Intercessor* God of the Holy Innocents, give your Church power to stand against racism and violence, and to protect the powerless.
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of the victims!**
- Intercessor* God of all creation, we give thanks for the blessings of this life. Give us joyful hearts and compassionate eyes with which to see your world
- People* **Hear us and help us, God of all creation!**

*Intercessor* We pray for your church around the world, for this community ...

*Intercessor* God of the heavens and earth,

*People* **Hear us and help us.**

*Intercessor* God, you are always coming into the world. Come to us now, soon, and forever, and let us receive you as the Child of holiness and Wind of change, through whom, this day, we pray. **Amen.**

## CONFESSIO

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God, you have called us to love the world

**We do not always recognize our belovedness;**

**We do not always recognize the belovedness of our neighbor;**

**We know we harm our relationship with you**

**And our relationships with each other**

**With words said and unsaid**

**With deeds done and undone**

**We ask for your unreserved forgiveness.**

**We ask for your unconditional love.**

**Help us to forgive without reservation.**

**Help us to love without condition.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen**

## ABSOLUTION

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The magnitude of your sins

Can never compare

With God's immeasurable grace

Out of the abundance of God's love

You are forgiven. **Amen**

## PEACE

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The Peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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Walk in love, as Christ loves us

## SONG

## DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

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*Sung by all*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O sisters, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O brothers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on, brothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!*

*O fathers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O fathers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray*

Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O mothers, let's go down  
Let's go down; don't you want to go down?  
Come on, mothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O sinners, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sinners, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!

## COMMUNION PRAYER

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*Adapted from Advent communion liturgy by Alydia Smith*

O come, Emmanuel, into our longing hearts.

**We lift our hearts to You**

As we gather around this table

**In expectation and hope.**

We embrace all that is holy as we sing:



Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

In this season of waiting, of shorter, darker days, and of preparation for Christmas, we hear of the coming of Jesus.

- 1            *We hear from the prophets of God's new right path in the desert and of the hope for shepherd to feed his flock.*
- 2            *We hear from John the Baptist of one coming after him, one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.*
- 1            *We hear from Jesus of signs and omens here and now, heralding Jesus' return, and we are warned to be ready.*
- 2            *We hear from the angel of the baby, conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, who will reign a prince of peace who will save his people.*

**As we open our hearts to this coming, and marvel at its meaning for us and for the world, we can't help but remember the rest of the story. Even as we celebrate Jesus' birth, we remember his life, his teachings and healings and compassion. Even as we remember the beginning, we know well of Jesus' suffering and death and Resurrection.**

We remember how, on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

We remember how, after supper, he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood poured out for you and for everyone. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may this bread and wine be the body and blood of Christ for us. In them may we receive Jesus who came long ago and who comes to us still, God's power in our humanity, to fire our hearts and minds and wills for love and service. **AMEN**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**



# BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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*Presider* Be what you see; receive who you are. The Body of Christ.



# COMMUNION SONG

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PRECIOUS LORD

*Sung by all*

## Verse 1

*Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, help me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home.*

## Verse 2

*When my way grows drear  
Precious Lord linger near  
When my life is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home.*

## Verse 3

*When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home*

## PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

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*Said by all, please turn to face the rear of the nave, as we prepare to go into the world.*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

## BLESSING

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### DISMISSAL

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*Sung by all*

O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

In this time of expectation,  
Go into the world in peace, hope and joy to seek and serve God—  
being and doing God's grace, mercy and justice.

Do everything in Love.  
Thanks be to God.

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

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Celebrant .....	The Rev. Herschel Wade
Preacher .....	The Rev. Philip DeVaul
Deacon.....	The Rev. Gary Lubin
Scripture Reading .....	Elise Allred
Great Commandment .....	
Intercessor.....	Elise Allred
Chalice Bearers.....	Julie Anne Baur
Acolyte .....	
Sacristan .....	Tom Kirkwood
Ushers .....	Jared & Kylie Utah
Bread Guild .....	Emily von Allmen
Greeters .....	Liz Cramer

### *Altar Guild*

Karen Staffiera, John Morabito, Katy Mallon

### *Flower Guild*

Kathleen Stengel, Courtney Vice, Laurie Maguire, Michelle Kirk

*Flowers in our worship spaces are a beautiful gift to God, those who attend worship, and those being honored or remembered. A contribution to the Flower Fund is a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one for special life events such as birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, confirmations, in thanksgivings for, in memory of, or to beautify our spaces.*

*If you would like to make a donation of \$50.00 please use our online form under the give tab on the website, [www.redeemer-cincy.org](http://www.redeemer-cincy.org), or call the church office.*

**Welcome to Church of the Redeemer!** We have a vision of a worshipping community that **knows Jesus and grows in love**. A community that is **united** in relationships of holy connection and communion. A community **growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion. A community **inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us. A community **sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness. Come, join us on the journey.

# PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer!

We love the sound of kids in our service.

Here are some ideas to keep them engaged:

**Relax:** It's OK for kids to be kids. We offer coloring pages, worship bags, and books they can use during the service.

**Sit Close:** Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see.

**Explain:** Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

**Participate:** Kids learn by mimicking what you do. So sing, pray, respond, etc. and kids will follow your lead.

**Wander:** It's OK to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids wander.

**Need to Leave?** No problem, there are spaces to take a break - kids need that sometimes. Come back when you're ready!

**Ask:** Questions or need help? Just ask our ushers.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

**Matthew 19:14 NRSV**

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

## VISITING OR CHECKING US OUT TODAY? THINKING OF JOINING?

Church of the Redeemer may be the place for you. Here's how to connect:

**JOIN US** for coffee and hospitality after the worship services in the Great Hall.

**ASK QUESTIONS** and join the Newcomer group at the Welcome Table, found in the Narthex (Lobby). If you like, sign-up for a name tag. Greeters, ushers, clergy, and friendly people would love to talk to you!

**CHILD CARE** is available in the Playroom for children (**age 3 and younger**) each Sunday beginning at 8:45 am through 12:15 pm. During **10:00 am education hour**, children (**age 3-6**) may join Godly Play in the Playroom; (**grades 1-4**) are invited to Club CoR in the Great Hall (Cloister Side); (**grades 5&6**) gather in the Library for Middle CoR; and youth (**grades 7-12**) meet in the Youth Café in the upstairs kitchen.

Questions about children's programming? Contact our Minister for Family Discipleship, Tym House at [tym@redeemer-cincy.org](mailto:tym@redeemer-cincy.org).

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?** Contact Nancy Schwartz, Director of Operations:

[nancyschwartz@redeemer-cincy.org](mailto:nancyschwartz@redeemer-cincy.org) or 513.321.6700



Church of the Redeemer has at its center the love of God in Jesus Christ. We are nourished by this love, empowered by the knowledge that we belong to God unconditionally, and equipped by our church to share love and blessing with the world around us. The gift you make facilitates the blessing of our community and the spiritual nourishment of so many. You are contributing to practical ministries that are transforming lives every day.

You are not paying the church back for what it is doing in your life, you are paying it forward to create opportunities for everyone who connects with our church. You are helping the church grow. You make this church what it is. You empower blessing and belonging. **Please make your 2024 financial commitment now. Simply use the Giving button on your CoR App or the QR Code to your right.**



*We strive to share our mission of radical welcome and hospitality with the world through photos and video. From time to time we document church events for use in publications, website, and social media. By your presence, you grant Redeemer unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast images, and or likenesses that may be taken of you for use in communications related to the church. Please contact Mireya Medina, Communications Minister, with any questions at [communications@redeemer-cincy.org](mailto:communications@redeemer-cincy.org).*



**YOUR NAME**  
Here

**REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAG** - As we gather together for worship today it is important to wear your nametag to help us all remember names or just meet for the first time. Don't have a nametag yet? Sign-up for one in the narthex/lobby near the entrance to the chapel. It will be ready for you next Sunday in the nametag cabinet.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** - Make a Christmas offering that enables the work of our Flower Guild in beautifying the space. Please consider making a special Christmas Flower gift in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one. To give electronically, use the QR code to the right or pick up one of the Flower envelopes in the Narthex and return by Sunday, December 17.



**NEW TO CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER?** - Ready to learn more about our ministries? Considering membership? Use the QR code at the left to join our Newcomer group and receive information about ministries, events, membership and access to our CoR App.

**TODAY'S OFFERING** - We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App. (Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system using the QR Code at right. There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.



## WEEKDAY SERVICES

**Tuesday:** Morning Prayer Podcast  
**Wednesday:** 6:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
**Thursday:** Morning Prayer Podcast

**PARKING:** Parking is on the street. Please pay attention to the signs indicating proper parking zones. Accessible parking is available in the front on Erie, in the back parking lot, and on the west side of Raymar.

**ACCESSIBLE REDEEMER:** The front entrance has a ramp and there is an elevator inside the back door and to the left. Accessible restrooms are located in the Lobby inside the front entrance. The nave is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for assistance.

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## CALENDAR

*Look for more details on events on our website: [redeemer-cincy.org/events](http://redeemer-cincy.org/events).*

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Church of the Redeemer offers a variety of worship, education, and fellowship events for all ages. A quick glance at our calendar provides a look at both our recurring opportunities, as well as those special events we have throughout the year. You can access the church calendar on our website under the Connect tab, on our CoR App using the Calendar button, on our TV sign in the narthex (lobby), and by using the QR code at right.



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### VESTRY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Jeff Brokamp, *Senior Warden*; Beth Weinewuth, *Junior Warden*

Carter Kemper, *Treasurer*; Kelly Schleker, *Asst. Treasurer*; Pattie Kovach, *Clerk of Vestry*

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Kathryn Albertson, Liturgy Board Co-Chair  
Steve Zimmerman, Liturgy Board Co-Chair

Matthew Solomon, Education Board Co-Chair  
Nancy Mackenzie Powell, Education Board Co-Chair

Andrew Cole, Stewardship Board Co-Chair  
David Haffner, Stewardship Board Co-Chair

Amanda Rasche, Pastoral Board Co-Chair  
Cynthia Walker, Pastoral Board Co-Chair

Larry Kissel, Mission Board Co-Chair  
Elizabeth Coley, Mission Board Co-Chair



### VISION STATEMENT

We have a vision of a worshipping community  
that **knows Jesus and grows in love:**

- **United** in relationships of holy connection and communion;
- **Growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion;
- **Inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us;
- **Sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

