

WELCOME TO THE BANQUET

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024 | 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

YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

WELCOME

WREATH LIGHTING

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch dark land, light has dawned – Isaiah 9:2

As we light the first candle of the Advent wreath,
We give thanks for the great light of the world, your Son, Jesus,
Who is our light in the world so that we no longer walk in darkness.
May our lives be a light to others. **Amen.**

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

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

READING

LUKE 21:25-36

Read by one

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

HOMILY AND CONVERSATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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

Holy Lord, as we prepare for the advent of Christ,

Give us your spirit of wisdom.

As we seek to embody your love in the world,

Give us your spirit of good counsel.

As we seek to be faithful,

Give us eyes to see beyond the obvious.

As we gather in this hour, we lift all in need before you ...

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings

May we be instruments of your peace on earth

As we accept the gifts of your Spirit.

CONFESSION

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

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

The officiant continues

We gather to embrace the unity of God's people and Christ's church;
to make peace a reality.

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to follow the cross and draw near. All are welcome to join us around the altar.

Walk in love, as Christ loves us

SONG

IN CHRIST ALONE

Sung by all

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fier - cest 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

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness 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 every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by dark - ness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victo - ry
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

COMMUNION PRAYER

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:



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 a 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



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

COMMUNION SONG

REST IN YOU

Sung by all

Verse 1

Who is Lord, but our Lord? Who is God, only God
You are the highest, You are most good

Verse 2

Matchless is Your love, our praise will rise above
Your peace like a river floods over us

Chorus

Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You
This is where my hope lies, this is where my souls sighs
And I will always find my rest in You

Verse 3

So full of mercy, beauty and mystery
You are most hidden, but always with us

Chorus

Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You
This is where my hope lies, this is where my souls sighs
And I will always find my rest in You
This is where my hope lies, this is where my souls sighs
And I will always find my rest in You
You cannot change, yet You change ev'rything [Repeat as desired]

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

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

REFRAIN

Sung by all

O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

DISMISSAL

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

Celebrant The Rev. Herschel Wade
Preacher The Rev. Philip DeVaul
Scripture Reading & Great Commandment Maria Andrews
Intercessor.....Julie Anne Baur
Chalice Bearers..... Julie Knapton, Elise Allred
Sacristan William Montgomery
Ushers Hollis & Mark Bass
Bread Guild.....Cheryl Fast
GreetersJohn Schenk, Jr.

Altar Guild

Amanda Rasche, John Morabito, Pattie Kovach, Sarah Kate Rasch

Flower Guild

Courtney Vice, Edie Zimmerman

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, 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.

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

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.



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 15.



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.

CALENDAR

Look for more details on events on our website: redeemer-cincy.org/events.

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.



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*

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

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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

