



REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Hospital for the Broken / Rehabilitation Center for Healing / Gym for Strength & Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Silent Preparation

If the only thing human beings needed were a little external tweaking of their life circumstances, then the coming of Jesus to earth wouldn't make any sense. But if the greatest danger to all of us lives inside us and not outside us, then the radical intervention of the incarnation of Jesus is our only hope.

– Paul Tripp

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

/ GOD'S SUPREMACY /

Call to Worship

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. Clay Wooten

Minister: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them –

People: Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Minister: And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Prayer of Invocation

* Hymn of Wonder

"Angels From The Realms of Glory" (Hymnal #218)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: **(Refrain)**
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam a-far; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: **(Refrain)**
4. Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: **(Refrain)**
5. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; ever more your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One – **(Refrain)**

*** Hymn of Joy**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Hymnal #203)

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. **(Refrain)**
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. **(Refrain)**
- 4.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – The Shepherd's Candle

**Micah 4:1-7
Luke 2:8-12, 15-18**

/ GOD'S RENEWAL /

Seeing Ourselves Rightly

Psalm 51

ALL: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Micah 7:18-19

Minister: Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression? You do not retain your anger forever, because you delight in steadfast love. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Hymn of Comfort

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” (Hymnal #197)

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed; all that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness into ever springing gladness.
3. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
4. Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

Minister: People of God, receive the goodness and mercy of your Savior.

People: We receive His mercies with thanksgiving!

Minister: Now, lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

* The Greeting of Peace

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you

/ GOD'S GRACE /

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Last Words – II Samuel 23

Rev. Clay Wooten

Celebration of Holy Communion

Redeemer welcomes to the table all those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior and who acknowledge Him as Lord. And yet, because communion is a sacrament of the Church, all are welcome to partake who are baptized members in an evangelical church (a church where the Gospel is loved and proclaimed). It is our request that children not participate in the Lord's Supper until they themselves have become communing members of such a church. However, children are encouraged to come up with their families, even though they may not be taking communion.

The Communion

We will go row by row and walk down the center forming a line in the front. You will receive both elements. Take them back to your seat by way of the outer aisle. The elements are taken together as a unified body following recitation of the Words of Institution noted below.

* We use wine to represent the bitterness of Christ's death. Grape juice is available in the center.

The Words of Institution

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of 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 are for the people of God. Come eat and drink with thanksgiving.

People: Hallelujah!

/ **GOD'S BLESSING** /

Offertory Prayer & Offering

Hymn of Wonder **"Joy Has Dawned/Angels We Have Heard"** (Folder #48)

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation – God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation. Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory, but a humble gift of love – Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels, as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable. Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness, cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory; gifts of men from distant lands, prophecy the story. Gold – a King is born today, incense – God is with us, myrrh – His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.
4. Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom; reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion! What a Savior! What a friend! What a glorious mystery! Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

Refrain: Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o , glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

5. * Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King — (Refrain)

*** Benediction**

Romans 15:12-13

Minister: Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

ALL: Joy to the world! The Savior Reigns!

*The Congregation stands

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Overflow Available

Reminder: additional overflow seating is available in the fellowship if the main sanctuary is full.

Christmas Party TONIGHT

This year, the Redeemer church-wide Christmas party will be held Sunday evening, December 10 from 5-7pm. Looking forward to a fun time of food, fellowship and games for kids and adults!

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service

Make plans to attend the annual Christmas Eve candlelight service, Lessons & Carols, Sunday evening, December 24 at 5pm.

Growing in Grace

As discussed at last week's informational meeting, Redeemer has been blessed with the challenge of needing more space in our current building. Numerical growth in the children's ministry, as well as a desire to have a collective, corporate worship space has led to the Growing in Grace campaign.

Beginning in early 2024, we are planning to "flip" our worship space to the Fellowship Hall and utilize the current sanctuary for nursery, children's church, and youth spaces. A Growing in Grace building committee will continue to work with an architecture firm to develop long-term building designs. If you feel led to give to this campaign at this early stage, note "Growing in Grace" on a check or select "Growing in Grace" from our online giving portal (scan QR code to access). Pray for wisdom, patience, and growth in the knowledge/experience of God's grace in our lives.



SERMON NOTES

Visitors

Thank you for joining us! We would love to hear more about you, and give you the opportunity to learn more about us. If you are interested, please scan the QR code to be taken to the New Visitor form on our website.



Online Giving

Redeemer Presbyterian Church operates on tithes and offerings from our members and friends. Please consider giving to support our efforts to spread the Gospel in Edmond and beyond! You may drop your gift in the offering plate at the end of the service or scan the QR code to give online.



Children & Youth Ministries

Nursery (birth - 4Y) available during sermon only
Children's Church (4Y - 1st grade) available during sermon only
Sunday School (2nd - 5th grade) Sunday mornings 9:10am - 9:50am
Youth (middle/high school) Sunday mornings 9:10am - 9:50am

Financial Summary YTD (Jan. - Oct.)

Income actual \$286,289 (budgeted \$256,667)
Expense actual \$199,811 (budgeted \$244,537)



THE SHEPHERD'S CANDLE



Today is the second Sunday in the season of Advent. Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is Purple, the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion, the Atonement. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Today we light two candles on the Advent Wreath. The first is the Prophets' candle, reminding us of God's promise to send his Son as our Savior. The prophet Micah wrote,

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills;
and peoples shall flow to it,
and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house
of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;
but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.
In that day, declares the LORD,
I will assemble the lame
and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted;
and the lame I will make the remnant,
and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
from this time forth and forevermore.

Micah 4:1-7

The second candle is called the Shepherds' Candle. It reminds us of the shepherds who were in the fields, tending their flocks on the night Christ was born. In the midst of their normal responsibilities, the angels surprised the shepherds with Good News of great joy. We read of the Shepherds in Luke's Gospel,

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger....

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:8-12, 15-18