



**REDEEMER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**



ADVENT | 11.28.2021

## Cover Art

*Cuneiform, "For God So Loved the World"*

*David Halliday*

*Words scribed in clay tablets from the time of Ezra remain today, even though the people who made them are long gone. The infinite God we speak and listen to each Sunday knows and remembers each word he has spoken to us, and remembers every human word ever spoken since the beginning of creation. Names, prayers and blessings are scribed on the clay tablets we made in the Advent Workshop.*

## Window Covering

*Barb Knuckles*

*The window is a map of rebuilding: the rings represent us, our families, tribes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and the city. The metallic pipecleaners represent our interconnections, creating a beautiful pattern of God's grace and mercy reaching far beyond our individual selves.*

## Platform Art

*Tom Peck*

*A tower represents the cornerstone of the rebuilt temple, constructed during Ezra's time. Golden bowls, part of the treasure provided to build the temple, define the structure. Yet, as the church calendar progresses, they also become monumental Advent candles, signalling our anticipation of Jesus, savior of the world.*

## Communion Set

*Becca Ito*

## Procession

*Leader* Look! He is coming with the clouds.

*All* **And every eye shall see him!**

**O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

## Advent Reading

*Isaiah 43: 16-21*

*Reader* This is what the Lord says—  
    he who made a way through the sea,  
    a path through the mighty waters,  
who drew out the chariots and horses,  
    the army and reinforcements together,  
and they lay there, never to rise again,  
    extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:  
“Forget the former things;  
    do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
    Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
    and streams in the wasteland.  
The wild animals honor me,  
    the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
    and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
the people I formed for myself  
    that they may proclaim my praise.

*Leader* Let us return our whole hearts to God.  
Let our mind and our will be made ready to receive him as king!

*All* **Amen! Let us make straight the way for the Lord!**

# Opening Hymn

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

*All*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the King of angels.**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*words and music John F. Wade, c.1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Public Domain*

## Prayer of Adoration

## Welcome

# Prayer of Confession

*Based on Isaiah 40; 42; Ezra 3*

*Leader* We fear that God has forgotten us  
in the wilderness, in exile, in a pandemic.

*All* **Have we dropped off your radar, God?  
We doubt that you notice us.  
So, we make up our minds to make our own way.  
May we lift our eyes to you and believe again  
that you are personally involved in our days.**

*Leader* Our Father has spoken to us in his Word  
to assure us of his love,  
to share himself so that we would trust in him.

*All* **But we would rather not follow your ways,  
or live in accordance with what is written.  
We mistrust that we can really get to know you from old pages.  
Our experience and insight feel so much safer.  
Help us to remember the emptiness of our old ways,  
and by faith to trust you as you lead us  
into something beyond what we have known.**

*Leader* The new doesn't seem that necessary, we think;  
the old ways were doing all right.

*All* **We confess that we don't want to live by faith,  
so we settle for the old ways we already know.  
Teach us to trust not in what is seen and felt  
but what is unseen and to follow you into the unknown.**

*Leader* Our Father, in your mercy, hear our confession.

*All* **Jesus, in your mercy, do not leave us to ourselves.**

*Leader* Spirit, in your mercy, lead us in the way of eternal life.

# Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

*Based on Isaiah 40-43*

*Leader* O church, how can you say the LORD doesn't see your troubles?  
O Redeemer, how can you claim,  
"God doesn't see what's happened to us;  
our plight is overlooked"?  
Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?

*All* **The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He never gets weak or weary.  
No one can get their head around his understanding.**

*Leader* You who bring good news to Indy,  
go up on Crown Hill.  
You who bring good news to Downtown,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid.

*All* **"Here is our God!"  
The sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
He gathers his flock in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart.**

*Leader* So now, this is what the LORD says—  
he who created you, Church,  
he who formed you, Redeemer:

*All* **"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned."**

*Leader* "I have given my Son in exchange for you.  
My Son has gladly laid down his life for you."

*All* **It really is true; the Lord has done a new thing!  
He has made a way in the wilderness.**

# Song in the Gospel

*“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”*

*All*

**O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,  
Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.**

**O Morning Star, O Radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without your light,  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.**

**Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O, come, lead us with mighty hand,  
Through exile to the promised land.**

**There shall we all our praises bring  
Ever to you, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud you and adore  
Forever and forever more.  
Forever and forever more.  
Forever and forever more.**

*words from a German spiritual song; tr. Martin L. Seltz; music Nathan Partain, 2003*

# Song in the Gospel

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

*All*

**Savior of the nations, come, show yourself, the virgin’s Son.  
Marvel, heaven; wonder, earth; that our God chose such a birth.**

**Not by human power or seed did the woman’s womb conceive;  
Only by the Spirit’s breath was the Word of God made flesh.**

**Christ laid down his majesty, passed through dark Gethsemane.  
Though he left his Father’s home, Christ now sits on God’s own throne.**

**Christ in glory intercede for your creatures’ suffering need.  
Let your resurrecting power soon complete the victory hour.**

**Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our newborn King!  
With the Father, Spirit one, let your lasting kingdom come.**

*words Ambrose, 4th., and Martin Luther, 1523; tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984  
music Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524; arr. Bruce Benedict, 2009 Cardiphonia Music*



# Prayer of Dependence

## Children's Worship

*Children's Worship, for kids ages 3-5, is where children can begin to learn how to worship as a church family. Please check in your child before the service either in the back of the sanctuary or at the nursery desk. They will be dismissed right before the sermon, and we will bring them back into the sanctuary during communion. Parents must have their security tag when picking up their child in the sanctuary.*

## Offering of Gifts and Service

*Online giving available at [[redeemindy.org/give](https://redeemindy.org/give)]*



# Scripture

*Ezra 1:1-6*

*Reader*

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

<sup>2</sup> “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. <sup>4</sup> And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

*Reader*  
*All*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# Sermon

Sam Haist

*The God Who is in Jerusalem*



## Community Group Questions

1. *Imagine what it was like to receive this letter from Cyrus. By now, virtually none of God's people have experienced Jerusalem for themselves. All they've really heard are stories and legends. How do you think they'd react? What would be exciting? Is there anything that might feel daunting? Try to imagine some of the thoughts running through their minds.*
2. *Take a minute to think about your own story. Where has God led you into places that felt scary or unfamiliar? Maybe it was a move you didn't expect, a job change you weren't sure about, or some shift in a relationship that felt difficult or uncomfortable. In what ways did that feel challenging? And what did it look like to try to trust and follow Jesus there?*
3. *Even though Cyrus didn't know or follow God, he clearly has a sense that God will be with his people as they go back to Jerusalem (verse 3). What difference does God's presence make when we step into unfamiliar places? How might knowing "God is in Jerusalem" impact the Israelites' faith? How might knowing "God is in Indianapolis" shape the way we engage the place we are right now?*

# Call to Communion

## *Guidelines for the Reception of Communion*

*Redeemer welcomes to Communion all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel. We will be coming forward for the distribution of Communion. Please use the hand sanitizer. You will receive the bread into your hands and take a cup from the tray. Clear cups (located in the interior rings) contain grape juice. Red cups (exterior ring of tray) contain wine. Wait to eat the bread and drink the wine until we all do so together, once we are back in our seats. Children who have been interviewed by the elders are able to share in Communion.*

*Communion is a time of connection with the Lord Jesus and with each other. Feel free to sing with the band during Communion. The ministry of prayer is also a way we live together as a community of believers and seekers. Please take the time to pray on your own, or with someone else in the pews.*

## Prayers

### *Prayer for Guidance to Truth*

*God, I don't know how I feel about what I have heard today but I want to trust that you are good, that you are loving, and that you are just. I want to know if you are the true God. If you are there, would you guide my soul to the truest truth. I don't want to be tricked or believe a lie. I don't want to believe in something just to make me feel better. Please God, lead me to the truth.*

### *Prayer of Belief and Repentance*

*Jesus, I believe that you are who you say you are: the Son of God and the savior of broken people like me. I need forgiveness. I need to be made new and to start over again. I now turn away from all I have been doing. I turn away from my self-centered life. I turn my whole heart toward you. I believe that when you were crucified, you took all of my evil and somehow you gave me all of your beauty. I invite your Holy Spirit to live in me. I do not want to live for myself any more. I want you to lead my life. I want to know you and to receive your love for me. Please teach me and protect me and guide me. I am yours. I ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

### *Prayer of Doubt and Faith*

*God, I don't really believe all of this, but there is a part of my heart that knows there is truth and goodness here. I am confused by the fact that there are so many things that I don't understand or that make me angry about you. There are also so many things that fill my heart with hope and many things that draw me to you, and I want to put my trust in you. God, you say I can come to you and ask for anything, so if you are real, please give me the faith I need to believe. Give me the desire to continue to seek after you. Keep my heart from self-deception. Protect me from any evil misleading or binding spirits. Calm my fears. Soften my cynicism. Be patient with me, and if you are God, please don't let me go, but instead let me know that you are real. I have a little faith, help me in my doubt.*

# Communion Hymn

*“Emmanuel”*

*All*

**He comes to be the Word that all words are judged by.  
He comes to be the Light that all lights are seen by.  
He comes to be the Blood that all debts are paid by.  
He comes to be the Word that all words are judged by.**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**He comes to bring some rest to the heavy laden.  
He comes to gut the one who abused his children.  
He comes to burn all memories of Satan.  
He comes to bring some rest to the heavy laden.**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**We beheld him, we have seen God’s face.  
We have touched him, “God with us” remained.  
We received him, we believed in his name,  
In his name, in his name.**

**He comes to lift our heads to proclaim his witness.  
He comes to dwell in us to reflect his radiance.  
He comes to send us out, his incarnate presence.  
He comes to lift our heads to proclaim his witness.**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**When He comes again then we will be always with him.**

*Nathan Partain, 2012*

## Doxology

*All*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Amen.**

## Community Life

Jesse Tree Workshop | 10:00 today in the gym

Artist Talk | After second service today in Speck Gallery  
*Carolyn Springer*

Advent Resources | [redeemindy.org/advent](http://redeemindy.org/advent)

*In this season of Advent be sure to check out our various resources online. There you will find resources from RedeemerKids, information about the Advent Prayer Guide, and links to stream Advent and Christmas music from Redeemer and Nathan Partain. (You can also scan the QR code below to listen. CDs are available to purchase from the welcome team.)*



Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday service times

*Christmas Eve | 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 26 | 10:00 a.m.*

*More information about these and other events can be found at our website [redeemindy.org](http://redeemindy.org).*

# Closing Hymn

*“Canticle of the Turning (Mary’s Song)”*

*All*

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

**Though the nations rage from age to age,  
We remember who holds us fast:  
God’s mercy must deliver us  
From the conqueror’s crushing grasp.  
This saving Word that our forbears heard  
Is the promise which holds us bound,  
’Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
Who is turning the world around.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,  
You work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
To the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
And to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
For the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

*words and arr. Rory Cooney, 1990; from the Magnificat, Luke 1:46–55; music trad Irish tune*

# Benediction



# Contact Us

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Giving / giving@redeemindy.org

Global Missions / missions@redeemindy.org

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) / mops@redeemindy.org

Redeemer Women / women@redeemindy.org

Worship, Hospitality, and Liturgical Arts / worship@redeemindy.org

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	2021 budget:
year to date giving:	\$2,487,554
\$1,866,719.33	

## Congregational Giving

November 21 <sup>st</sup> .....	\$	\$36,871.75
November Total .....	\$	\$125,960.48
November Budget .....	\$	\$373,398.00



## Membership at Redeemer

Membership is meaningful in multiple ways. First, we believe that as Christians, it is a part of our calling to be active and engaged in the Church. When you become a member, you take public vows to confirm your faith in Christ and commit to his Church. These vows submit members to the leadership and discipline of the church. We submit ourselves to accountability just like in marriage, friendship, citizenship, and any other relationship or institution that we enter into.

Membership also allows you certain benefits. Members in good standing are able to vote on church matters. They elect elders, call pastors, and have a say in other church business.

To become a member at Redeemer you must take our Discovering Redeemer class and meet with an elder for an interview. You will take membership vows privately and then publicly before the church. To begin this process, contact Jen Maurer [[jen.maurer@redeemindy.org](mailto:jen.maurer@redeemindy.org)].

## Fountain Square Pres

In 2014, Fountain Square Presbyterian Church opened its doors. The first daughter church of Redeemer, Fountain Square ministers to, worships with, and cultivates Christ-centered community in the Fountain Square neighborhood of Indianapolis.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is part of a church planting movement in Indianapolis and we are earnestly working to fund the planting of another gospel community.

## Good to See You Again.

You've been around, but there are so many ways to get plugged in that you're not sure where to start. How about starting here? Give us your name and email, check some boxes, and drop this in the offering plate.

### FIRST & LAST NAME

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### EMAIL

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### I'D LIKE TO... \*

- Learn More About Redeemer
  - Become a Member
  - Join a Community Group
  - Work with Global Missions
  - Use my Artistic Talents
  - Serve with Kids
  - Serve with Students
  - Greet on Sunday Mornings
  - Make & Serve Food
  - Join a Prayer Team
  - Talk to Someone About Counseling
  - Do Something Else:
- 
- 
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\*Go to [www.redeemindy.org/ministries](http://www.redeemindy.org/ministries) for a full list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions.

## Nice to Meet You

We're glad you're here and we'd love to get to know you better. Please help us do that by filling out whatever information you are comfortable sharing below. Tear it off and put it in the offering plate, or bring it to the Welcome Table for a small gift! We'll be in touch.

### I AM A...

- 1st/2nd-time Guest     Out-of-Town Guest  
 Regular Attendee     Redeemer Member

### FIRST & LAST NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

- Male     Female

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

### SPOUSE OR FRIEND

\_\_\_\_\_

- Male     Female

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTACT

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1505 N. Delaware St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
317.238.5487  
[www.redeemindy.org](http://www.redeemindy.org)

Sunday Worship  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Classes  
10:00 a.m.

## Church Plants

### FOUNTAIN SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN

901 Shelby Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
303.408.9720  
[www.fountainsquarepres.org](http://www.fountainsquarepres.org)

Sunday Worship  
10:30 a.m.