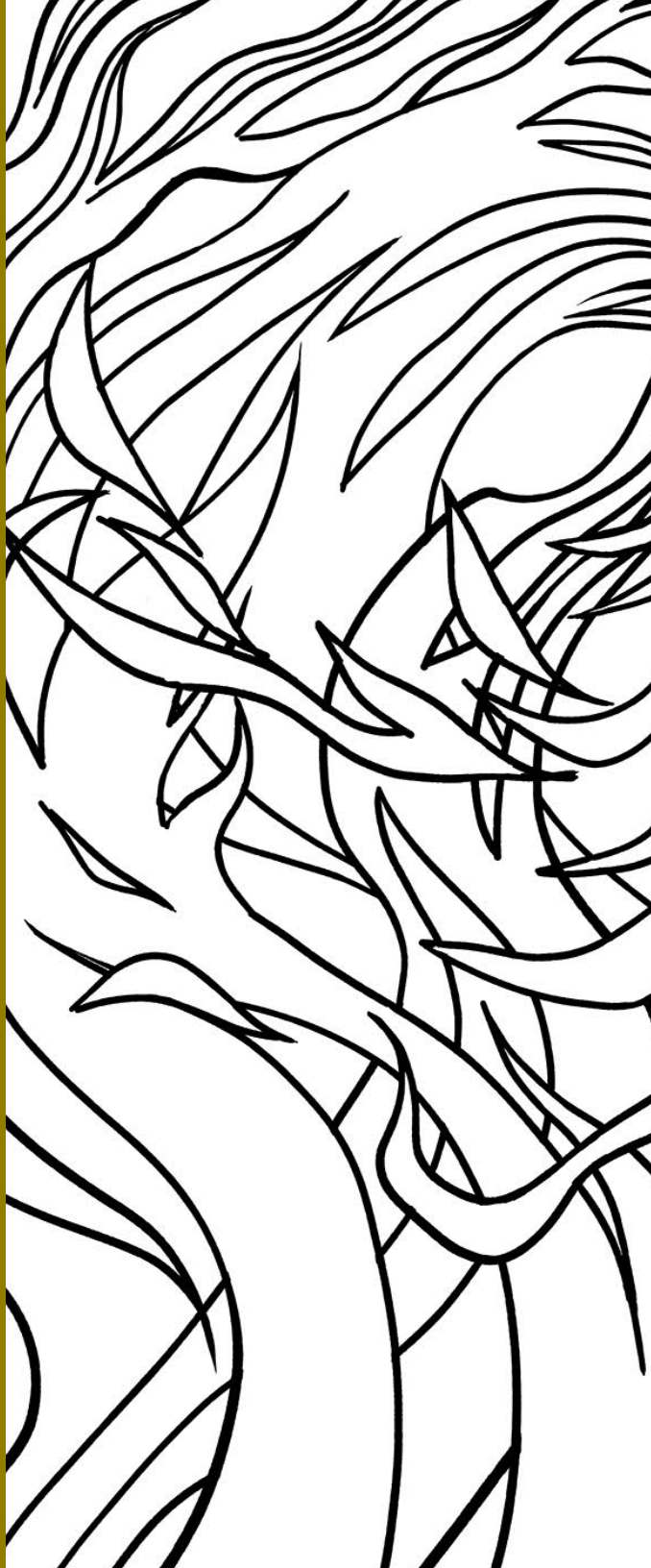


# REDEEMER PRES

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
11.29.2020



# Welcome

## Call to Worship

*From Revelation 1:4-8*

*Leader*      “Behold, he is coming with the clouds,”  
                    and “every eye will see him,  
                    even those who pierced him”.

*All*             **And when they see him,**  
                    **all peoples on earth will realize how they have rejected him**  
                    **and they will mourn.**

*Leader*      So shall it be! Amen!

*All*             **He is the A and the Z,**  
                    **All things started with him**  
                    **and all things will end with him,**  
                    **He is and was and is to come.**  
                    **He is the Almighty God!**

# Opening Hymn

*“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*

# Prayer of Adoration

## Prayer of Confession

*Drawn from 1 Peter 1-2; 4:13-14*

*Leader*      Apart from you, Lord, our way of life seems full and right,  
                    but really, it's only empty, cut off from true light and life.

*All*             **We're like sheep going astray,  
                    who don't even know they don't know their own way.**

*Leader*      Your blessing is promised to those insulted for being a Christian.

*All*             **But we are afraid to be rejected by people.  
We so desperately want to be understood, that we are quiet about you.  
We accommodate others to a fault  
                    and don't truly care for them to be reconciled to God.**

*Leader*      Lord Jesus, you suffered on our behalf, and your sufferings bring us to life.  
                    And our lives are now joined to your life.

*All*             **But we are reluctant to suffer on your behalf.  
We want you...and "the good life."  
Education, career, success, comfort, wellness, and wealth.  
We think these things will keep us.  
We repent of trusting them so much that it crowds out trusting you.**

*Leader*      Unless you call us, God, we remain in darkness.

*All*             **Restore us to yourself, Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

# Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

*Drawn from 1 Peter 1-3*

*Leader*

Jesus is special and dear to God.  
The Father chose him before the creation of the world  
to be the cornerstone of the new world.

*All*

**Christ was revealed when he suffered for us,  
bearing our sins in his body on the cross, to bring us to God.**

*Leader*

Put to death in the body, he was made alive in the Spirit.

*All*

**He ascended into heaven where he reigns at his Father's right hand,  
over every power, authority, ideology, structure, and sphere.**

*Leader*

You are special and dear to God.  
God has chosen and redeemed you to make you his special possession  
that you would trust him and follow in Jesus' steps.

*All*

**Let us walk, then, in both joy and hardship,  
until Jesus is revealed in glory.**

*Leader*

Once you were not a people,

*All*

**but now we are God's people!**

*Leader*

Once you had not received mercy,

*All*

**but now we have received mercy!**

# Song in the Gospel

*“Thou Who Wast Rich”*

*All*

**Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor.**

**Thou who are God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,  
Heav’nward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who are God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man.**

**Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.**

*words Frank Houghton; music French Carol Melody, arr. by Charles Kitson, 1930*

# Song in the Gospel

*“What Child is This?”*

*All*

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

*trad. English carol, 16th cent.; adapt. William C. Dix, 1865; Public Domain*

# First Sunday of Advent: Prayer for Hope

*From Romans 5:5*

*Leader*

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

God of all hope,  
We come to you this first day of Advent, a day that begins with darkness.

Like the prophets, we are weary and overwhelmed  
by all of the ways this world is not the way it's supposed to be.

We are tired of disease and death.  
We are tired of injustice and unrest.  
We are tired of losing jobs and losing sleep.  
We are tired of empty classrooms and empty bank accounts.  
We are tired of an ever-growing list of disappointment.

We confess that hope feels dangerous.  
After months of heartache, we're afraid of being let down again.  
The darkness feels as though it just won't lift and we're tempted to embrace it in despair.  
Like the prophets, we wonder have you forgotten us?  
Will you keep your promises? Can we trust you?

*All*

**Like those who longed for your first coming, we ask you to return  
and make everything sad come untrue.  
We light a candle as a defiant act of hope, even as we wrestle with our doubts.**

*Light the candle of Hope together.*

**But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope.  
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed.**

*Leader*

As one tiny wick flickers, we remember that you are the Light of the whole world.  
We remember that the darkness cannot overcome you and by extension, us.  
We remember that you are a God who enters into our dark places and keeps your promises.

*All*

**Pour out your love within our hearts  
and give us the hope that you offer that does not disappoint.  
Amen.**

*written by Emily Pilkington*



# Offering of Gifts and Service

*Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]*



# Scripture

*1 Peter 1:6-7*

*Reader*

<sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

*1 Peter 4:12-19*

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

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

# Sermon

Jeff Nottingham

*Joined to Jesus*

## Community Group Questions

1) *Sharing in Christ's sufferings* (v.13) feels abstract at first, not to mention daunting. Even just talking about suffering is complicated. When we suffer, one way we can share in Jesus' sufferings is to think and act like he did when he suffered. In 1 Peter 2:23, we read that when Jesus suffered, he entrusted himself to God. To entrust means, "to hand something over to the care of another." When are the times in Jesus' life that we see him do this? How does Jesus doing it help you do it?

2) It is challenging to speak openly about Jesus. Our society is shifting to a view that being a Christian is not a good thing. But what are the *internal* pressures that keep you from speaking? How would trusting that God is faithful release you to speak more?

3) One response to suffering is, "That which doesn't kill me only makes me stronger." This response is partly good, partly not. It is good to bear down and work hard to get through something difficult; however, when we only ram our way through suffering, we risk doing it like a lone wolf, losing some of our connection to Jesus and his community during a time when we stand to really gain from them. What do you gain from Jesus and from others when you are suffering?

### *Children's Questions*

Is there someone you know who doesn't know about Jesus? What would you like to tell this person about Jesus? Ask a grown-up to help you tell them, maybe by drawing them a picture, or making them a card or writing them a note.

# Song of Response

*"I Asked the Lord"*

I asked the Lord that I might grow, in faith and love and every grace,  
Might more of his salvation know, and seek more earnestly his face.  
’Twas he who taught me thus to pray, and he I trust has answered prayer,  
But it has been in such a way, as almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour, at once he’d answer my request,  
And by his love’s constraining power, subdue my sins and give me rest.  
Instead of this, he made me feel, the hidden evils of my heart,  
And let the angry powers of hell, assault my soul in every part.

Yea more with his own hand he seemed, intent to aggravate my woe,  
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed, cast out my feelings, laid me low.  
Lord why is this, I trembling cried, wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?  
“Tis in this way,” the Lord replied, “I answer prayer for grace and faith.”

“These inward trials I employ, from self and pride to set thee free,  
And break thy schemes of earthly joy, that thou mayest seek thy all in me,  
That thou mayest seek thy all in me.”

©2004 double v music (ASCAP); words: John Newton (alt. Laura Taylor); music: Laura Taylor

# Community Life

## Advent Prayer Guide

### Valediction

*From Luke 1:46-55*

- Leader* “My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
*All* **For he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.**
- Leader* From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
*All* **for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.**
- Leader* His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
*All* **He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.**
- Leader* He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
*All* **He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.**
- Leader* He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.

# Closing Hymn

*“Canticle of the Turning”*

*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 forbear’rs 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*

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year to date giving: 2020 budget:  
\$ 1,870,433.51 ▼ \$ 2,256,301

▲  
Jan–Nov budget:  
\$ 2,068,275.92

## Congregational Giving

Nov 22nd .....	\$	23,349.69
Nov Total .....	\$	113,668.59
Nov Budget .....	\$	188,025.08

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