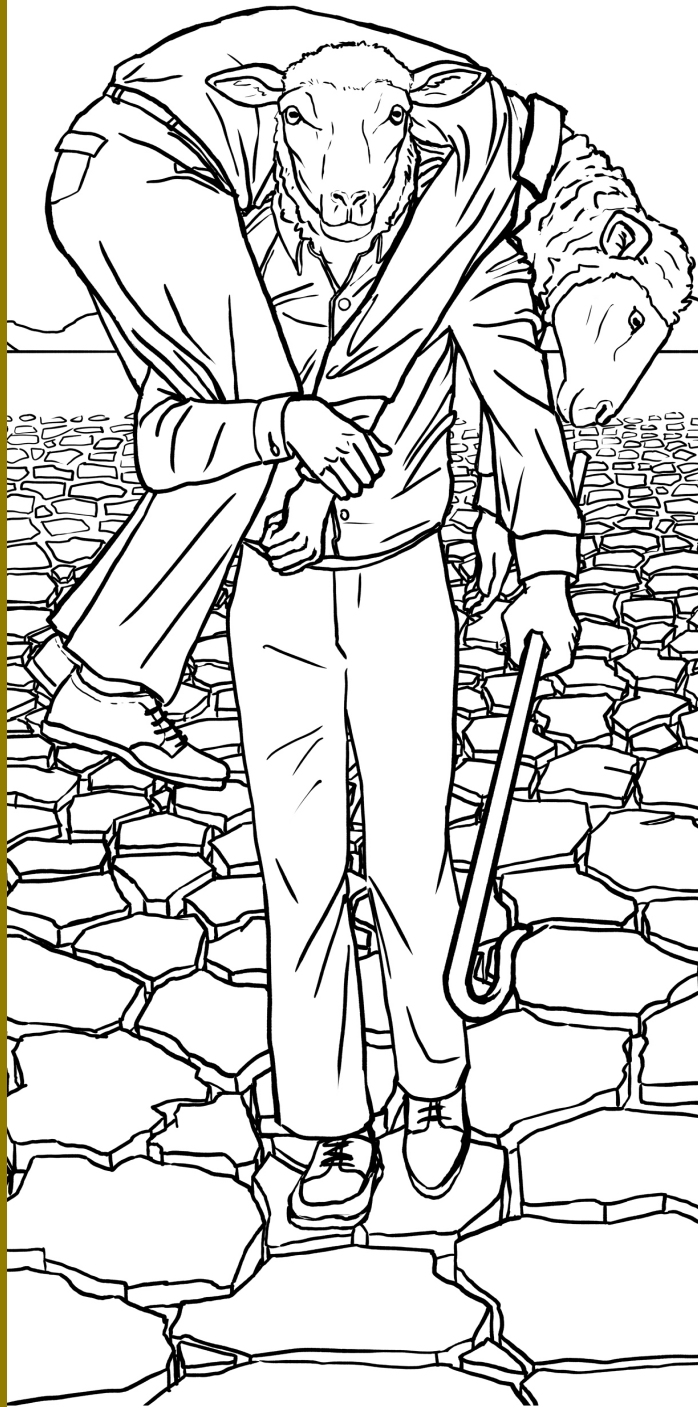


# REDEEMER PRES

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12.6.2020



## Cover Art

*By Bethany Sanders*

*The panel for the second Sunday of Advent is for 1 Peter 5:1-4 where Peter addresses the elders and exhorts them to be shepherds of God's flock. I was thinking about how in 1 Peter 5 the shepherds are also the sheep. So I have a sheeple shepherd doing a fire-man carry of a sheeple from his flock. The background is a cracked desert because the shepherd is carrying the other sheep to safety.*

## Liturgical Painter

*Katie Pourcho*

# Welcome

## Call to Worship

*From 2 Peter 3:1-9*

*Leader* Let us wake up our right mind and recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

*All* **Above all, we must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.**

*Leader* They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

*Kids* **Jesus, we want you to come back.**

*All* **But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.**

*Leader* By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

*Kids* **Jesus, we need you to come fix things.**

*All* **So we will not forget this one thing,  
The Lord can experience a moment as if it lasted forever,  
and can experience forever as a passing moment.**

*Leader* The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.

*All* **No! In fact, he waits because of his patience with us,  
he does not want anyone to perish  
but everyone to come to repentance.**

*Kids* **Jesus, we want to see you.**

*All* **Amen.**

# Opening Hymn

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

*All*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory over the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*words Anonymous, 9th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; music French melody, 15th cent.; Public Domain*

# Prayer of Adoration

## Prayer of Confession

*Drawn from 1 Peter 1-2; Colossians 3:12; Valley of Vision*

*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*      You are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved.  
Clothe yourselves, therefore, with compassion, kindness,  
                    humility, gentleness, and patience.

*All*            **We think more highly of ourselves than we should,  
                    staking out our perspective as "the right one,"  
                    failing to listen, to extend grace, to consider others better than ourselves.**

*Leader*      Let us consider ourselves in light of your greatness and grace.

*All*            **When we leave goodness undone,  
                    may convicting thoughts strip us of our pride.  
When we are tempted to think highly of ourselves,  
                    grant us to see the cost our Savior paid to ransom us.**

*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

*“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

*All*

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing worldly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood;  
Lord of lords, in human nature,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav’nly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to his presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”  
“Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

*words Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; French carol melody; arr. Bruce Benedict, 2001*

# Song in the Gospel

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

*All*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim throngéd the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*words Christina Rossetti, 1872; music Cranham, Gustav T. Holst, 1906*



# Second Sunday of Advent: Prayer for Faith

*From Hebrews 11:1*

*Leader* Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Author and Perfecter of our Faith,  
We confess that our faith is sometimes lacking. In a broken world plagued by sin,  
it is often easier to doubt than to believe.

*All* **When we suffer, we wonder if you are good.  
When we see evil, we wonder why you don't intervene.  
When we are lonely, we wonder if you have forgotten us.  
When we are worried, we wonder if we can trust you.**

*Leader* When we turn on the news and see more tragedy, we wonder where you are.  
When our earthly leaders fail yet again, we wonder if you are any different.  
When your parents traveled to Bethlehem, didn't their faith ever waver?  
Your teenaged mother was scandalized and misunderstood.  
Assumptions and whispers were never far from her presence.  
An oppressive regime that ruled by terror ordered an arduous third trimester journey  
that ended with no guest room available.  
Your first-time mother endured labor and delivery with livestock instead of a midwife.

*All* **Was there a moment where angelic promises felt too good to be true?  
Was there a moment where faith felt foolish?**

*Leader* We light this second candle as an act of faith even as we wrestle with doubt.

*Light the candle of Faith along with the Hope candle together.*

It couldn't have been easy to walk by faith uphill, in a rainy season of cold nights.  
It couldn't have been easy to walk by faith dozens of miles just to feel forgotten  
and cast aside.

*All* **Give us the grace to join your earthly parents when our own journeys are hard.  
Give us the strength to put one foot in front of another.  
Give us confidence in what we hope for.  
Give us assurance in what we don't yet see.**

**We believe. Please help our unbelief.  
Amen.**

*written by Emily Pilkington*

# Offering of Gifts and Service

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



# Scripture

*1 Peter 5:1-5*

*Reader*

<sup>1</sup> So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Sermon

Charles Anderson

*Leaders and Members under Jesus*

# Community Group Questions

- 1) Peter lays out three contrasts in 1 Peter 5:2–3 for how elders are to oversee the flock: “not like this . . .” he says, “but like this . . .” What does it look like when elders live this out, when they do the positive side of each of those contrasts?
- 2) Read Mark 10:35–45. How is your heart and desire like James’ and John’s? How does Jesus serve not just as example for a different way but the means and power for that different way?
- 3) Why do you think Peter includes instructions to leaders—who make up a specific, probably small, sub-group—in a letter to be read to the entire church? What does the whole church need to hear from these verses? What do you personally need to hear?
- 4) It is always hard to humble ourselves toward one another, and living in a divisive season under a pandemic does not make it any easier. How do you struggle with humbling yourself toward other Christians? What about with Christians you know you disagree with? What grace does 1 Peter 5:1–5 offer to enable you to obey the commands of verse 5?

## *Children’s Questions*

When Peter talks to Christians “who are younger,” he means everyone in the church in general, which certainly includes you who really are younger! What are the right ways to submit to the church’s elders? What are the wrong ways? How is it good for you to be part of a church led by elders? How do they point you to trust in Jesus as the chief Shepherd?

# Song of Response

*“Break Forth O Light”*

*All*

Soon at last at the dawning, we become who we are.  
The redemption of Jesus through the blood of forgiveness we’ve spread near and far.  
Yet we’ve never stopped seeking, for the kingdom complete.  
For the hurt to be whole, for the poor to be full and the scared to be free.

Break forth O Light, O Healing rise  
The earth that groaned, now leaps and cries.  
The soul that yearned is satisfied.  
We hold out our flame, and in hope we wait,  
Until you arrive, until you arrive, until you arrive.

We have walked as we worshipped, in our hearts, Sabbath rest  
Representing our Sovereign, who can move earth and heaven in His power to bless.  
We have lived out His beauties, shown the light of his face.  
Silenced every accuser, broke the chains of each burden, clothed the shameful in grace.

Break forth O Light, O Healing rise  
The earth that groaned, now leaps and cries.  
The soul that yearned is satisfied.  
We hold out our flame, and in hope we wait,  
Until you arrive, until you arrive, until you arrive.

Now the hour is brimming, fullness almost has come.  
When the earth stands receiving, its King and his Kingdom, and Heaven comes down.  
And we fully know him, by touch and by sight.  
And we’ll drink deep together, surrounded by splendor, increasing in life.

Break forth O Light, O Healing rise  
The earth that groaned, now leaps and cries.  
The soul that yearned is satisfied.  
We hold out our flame, and in hope we wait,  
Until you arrive, until you arrive, until you arrive.

*Nathan Partain, 2016*

# Community Life

Advent Prayer

Christmas Eve in the Parks

Caroling Community Groups

## Valediction

*From 2 Peter 3:10-13*

*Leader*      The day of the Lord will come like a thief.  
The heavens will disappear with a roar;  
    the elements will be destroyed by fire,  
    and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

*Kids*      **Jesus, we want you to come back.**

*Leader*      Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?

*All*      **May we live holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God  
    and speed its coming.**

*Leader*      That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire,  
    and the elements will melt in the heat.

*Kids*      **Jesus, we need you to fix things.**

*Leader*      But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven  
    and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

*Kids*      **Jesus, we want to see you.**

*All*      **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.**

# Closing Hymn

*“Joy to the World”*

*All*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

*words Isaac Watts, 1719; music “Antioch”; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836; Public Domain*

# Contact Us

Charles Anderson Lead Pastor / charles@redeemindy.org

Ben Reed Assistant Pastor of Administration / ben@redeemindy.org

Sam Haist Assistant Pastor of Formation / sam@redeemindy.org

Jeff Nottingham Assistant Pastor of Care / jeff.nottingham@redeemindy.org

Todd Dawkins Assistant Pastor of Next Generation Ministries / todd@redeemindy.org

Amanda Edgell Director of Community Groups / amanda@redeemindy.org

Nathan Partain Director of Worship and Culture / nathan@redeemindy.org

Pat Hickman Pastor of Fountain Square Presbyterian Church / pat@fountainsquarepres.org

Questions? info@redeemindy.org

Children, Students, and College / nextgen@redeemindy.org

Sunday Classes and Discipleship / adultministry@redeemindy.org

Counseling / counseling@newhopeindianapolis.org

Deacon Team / deacons@redeemindy.org

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

2020 budget:

\$ 2,256,301

year to date giving:

\$ 1,897,064.57 ▼

Jan–Nov budget:

\$ 2,068,275.92 ▲

## Congregational Giving

Nov 29th .....	\$	29,716.06
Nov Total .....	\$	117,034.96
Nov Budget .....	\$	188,025.08