

# REDEEMER PRES

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
12.13.2020



## Cover Art

*By Bethany Sanders*

*The third panel is for 1 Peter 5:8–9, where Peter tells Christians to resist the devil who “prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” I wondered how sheep could resist a lion. Peter uses the term “resist” instead of “defeat,” so I drew the sheep with staffs—defensive rather than offensive weapons—and had them face the prowling lion together.*

## Liturgical Painters

*Erin and Jackie Hall*

# Welcome

## Call to Worship

*From Revelation 21:1-4*

*Leader* Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,  
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,  
and the sea no longer existed.  
I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:

Look! God's dwelling is with humanity,

*Kids* **Jesus, you are our hope!**

*Leader* He will live with us.

*All* **We will be his people,  
and God himself will be with us  
and be our God.**

*Leader* He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

*Kids* **Jesus we need you to heal us!**

*Leader* Death will no longer exist.

*All* **Grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer,  
because the previous things have passed away.**

*Leader* The Almighty God says,  
“Look! I am making all things new!”

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

*All* **Amen.**

# 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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

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

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

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

## Prayer of Confession

*Drawn from 1 Peter 5:5; Matthew 5:5; Philipians 2:7-8*

*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*      God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.  
The meek, you say, shall inherit the earth.

*All*            **And yet much of the time we are self-centered and self-absorbed,  
thinking our own limited perspective is the only one that matters,  
and treating God and other people simply as props in our own story.  
In placing ourselves at the center, we oppose ourselves to Jesus,  
and reject the offer of rest that can only come from him.**

*Leader*      Jesus emptied himself and took the form of a servant.  
He humbled himself for us, to the point of death on a cross.

*All*            **You made us, O Lord, to walk the path of your humility.  
Free us, O God, from addiction to ourselves.  
Help us to trust in your promise and your care,  
and may your will, not ours, be our liberty and joy.**

*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

*“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”*

*All*

**God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Now, to the Lord, sing praises all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood, each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

*English carol, 18th century; Public Domain*

# Song in the Gospel

*“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

*All*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heav’n’s all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies, they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds,  
The blessèd angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way,  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours,  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast’ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years,  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heav’n and earth shall own  
The Prince of Peace, their King,  
And the whole world send back the song,  
Which now the angels sing.

*words Edmund H. Sears, 1849; music Richard S. Willis, 1850; Public Domain*



# Third Sunday of Advent: Prayer for Joy

*From Psalm 16:11*

*Leader* You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Jesus,

Angels described your birth as good news of great joy meant for all people.  
But when the shepherds left,  
angels warned your father to flee the wrath of a bloodthirsty, power-hungry King.  
Christmas verses end with you becoming a refugee as he murdered.

*All* **In your presence there is fullness of joy  
and yet you are described as a man of sorrow, familiar with pain.**

*Leader* You tell us to rejoice in all circumstances  
and yet your anguish burst capillaries in Gethsemane.

*All* **The joy you offer is complex and not afraid of the minor notes that accompany this life.**

*Leader* You don't just hear the words of our lament,  
you spoke them on the cross for the joy that was set before you.  
You put on flesh to dwell among us, to bring true joy to the world, not a cheap counterfeit.

*All* **You came to make your blessings flow far as the curse is found  
by experiencing just how deep that curse extends.  
We give you the places of our lives that feel heavy and hard.  
Please meet us in these spaces.  
Restore unto us the joy of our salvation and uphold us with your Spirit.**

*Leader* Immanuel,  
God with us and for us in all circumstances and in every hard thing.  
You show us that joy and suffering can coexist.

*All* **We light this third candle to celebrate the joy you offer.  
Joy that doesn't just withstand trial, but grows through it.**

*Light the "joy" or third Advent candle along with the first two.*

*Leader* Weeping may endure for the night, but you promise joy that comes with the morning.

*All* **Help us to trust you.  
Amen.**

# Offering of Gifts and Service

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



# Scripture

*1 Peter 5:5-7*

*Reader*

<sup>5</sup> Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Sermon

Sam Haist

*Gospel Humility*

# Community Group Questions

1) In verse 5, Peter makes a pretty startling claim: that God “opposes the proud” but “gives grace to the humble.” What do you think this means? And why do you think pride is something God takes so seriously?

2) Humility as a virtue is fundamentally relational: it’s about how we relate to the people around us, and even the way we relate to God. Practically, what do you think it means to “clothe yourself in humility” towards others? How might that influence the way we speak? How might that shape our thought life? How would you describe a “humble” disposition towards God and other people?

3) In verses 6-7, Peter makes an interesting connection between pride and anxiety: that humbling ourselves allows us to cast our cares on God in ways we aren’t able to otherwise. How might knowing Jesus empower us to do that? What does the gospel say about God’s disposition towards us?

## *Children’s Questions*

If someone were to ask “How do you know that God cares for you?,” what would you say? What reasons could you list? How might knowing Jesus help you trust God, even when things are hard?

# 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

Christmas Eve in the Parks  
please RVSP @ [redeemindy.org/events](http://redeemindy.org/events)

Caroling Community Groups

## Valediction

*From 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

- Leader* Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death,  
so that you do not grieve like the rest of humanity, who have no hope.
- Kids* **Jesus, you are our hope!**
- Leader* For we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
- All* **And so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.**
- Leader* According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- Kids* **Jesus, we need you to heal us!**
- Leader* For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command,
- All* **With the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.**
- Leader* After that, we who are still alive and are left  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
- All* **And so we will be with the Lord forever.**
- Kids* **Jesus, we want to see you!**
- All* **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.**

# 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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2020 budget:

\$ 2,256,301

year to date giving:

\$ 1,945,126.11 ▼

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## Congregational Giving

Dec 6th .....	\$	\$48,061.54
Dec Total .....	\$	\$48,061.54
Dec Budget .....	\$	\$188,025.08

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