



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 14th, 2021

Explanation of Cover Art

“These lyrics from O Holy Night have been inspiring the final layers of this scene, “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.” I’ve been reflecting about the story of hope coming to the world through Christ in light, shadow, color and paint vibes. This scene speaks that story to me.” - Alicia Zaroni Lawrence

Explanation of Window Art

By Erin Hall

These tattered royal garments are arranged in structured community. From the perspective of one piece, they may be overshadowed or feel exposed and rub against the frays of another, but from afar even the tattered humble fragments show glimpses of their beauty in how they play off each other. There are many circles and intersections in our body, but one strong common chord. I was also meditating on the ideas of “casting anxiety on him” and clothing ourselves in humility toward one another; submitting to elders as part of the necessary structure: for each piece, if not tied in, would easily drift away. It is also such joy that our Lord sees our beauty now, and delights in us, even as we are.

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Ezekiel 37:1-14

Leader Dearest children of the Living God,
you were a graveyard, dead dead, beyond hope.

All **But at the word of God we came alive,
he gave us strength to stand, covered us in beauty,
and put his very own breathing in us.**

Leader Our Father alone has done this!
And no one can stop his word from being accomplished.

All **Father, we give back to you only what you have first given to us.
With our joy we worship you, with our freedom we love you,
with our desire we treasure you, with our soul we give you all we are.**

Leader Let us sing and exalt him who loves us first,
who heals his enemies, who buys back the unforgivable.

Opening Hymn

"The Glory of His Name"

All

**Let my whole soul bloom like a morning flower,
Spread out my arms to sing my Maker's praise;
And let that sound, a flock of birds, come pouring.
The rivers rise and flood their rocky banks;
The flute o'erflows, the drum o'erflows, the voice o'erflows
The glory of his name.**

**Then breaks my soul, a mighty clap of thunder;
The pillars shake, the heav'ns begin to fall;
The mountains split, a world of fear and wonder.
The dark is day, the forest stripped and bare;
The wise laid low, all might laid low, all thoughts made known
The glory of his name.**

**Yet in my soul his calm is ever speaking,
Through every hour, against the violence there.
He is the King, though all I see is dying;
When all has passed, his word will still be there.
The earth rejoice, the sea rejoice, his saints rejoice
The glory of his name.**

**The earth rejoice, the sea rejoice, his saints rejoice
The glory of his name.**

Nathan Partain, 2003

Prayer of Adoration and Preparation

Prayer of Confession

Based on Romans 1:25; Luke 15:12-13; Romans 8:12; Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 5:19-21

Leader Our Father and God made it plain to all humanity through creation
and through the message of his word,
who he is, that he is good, and that we are his creatures and that we are made for him.

But we have turned away from our Creator and Father,
and our sin rightly condemns us.

All **We exchange God for what he has made,
looking for life and meaning in created things.
We run away from home, telling our Dad,
“I wish you were dead. Give me your stuff,
so that I can live how I want.”**

Leader Sin overpowers and masters us.

All **We do the very evil we don't want to.
We can't seem to do the good we want to.
“Why keep trying?” we despair.
“Nothing will change.”**

Leader We live according to the flesh, gratifying its cravings.

All **Our minds are set towards this world, what it offers.
We covet and envy.
We divide into factions.
We dabble, and then indulge, in sexual immorality.**

Leader Who will rescue us from sin, the flesh, the world, and the devil?

Song in the Gospel

“You Have Redeemed my Soul”

All **You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.
You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.**

**I was a hungry child,
A dried up river.
I was a burned out forest,
And no one could do anything for me.**

**But you put food in my body, water in my dry bed,
And to my blackened branches,
You brought the spring time green of a new life.
And nothing is impossible for you.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 5:13-26

Leader **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh—even more, the likeness of sinful flesh—
to condemn sin and crucify the sinful flesh.**

All **Christ’s life, Christ’s obedience, Christ’s righteousness are all ours in him.**

Leader **The Son became a sin-offering for us:
all your condemnation, your guilt, your failure, your self-righteousness
has been poured out on him!**

All **Praise be to God: we are justified, forgiven, and freed!**

Leader **Jesus has become the resurrected, ascended Lord in heaven,
from where he has poured out his Spirit to give you life.**

All **Let us then
live by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, bear the fruit of the Spirit,
and keep in step with the Spirit.**

Song in the Gospel

"You Have Redeemed my Soul"

All

**You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.
You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness,
You have redeemed my soul from death.**

Don Chaffer (c) 1999 Blue Renaissance Music

Song in the Gospel

“Bring Your Sick”

All

**Bring your sick, your restless fevered, filled with anxious shaking moans,
Who would kill for some relief from, all the itching in their bones.
Who still search for some elixir, that could ease their gasping breath,
Some sweet drink to drive the poison, from the writhing in their head.**

**Jesus Christ, says “Gather to me, all you lost, you poor, you dead!
I’m your sacrifice, your ransom, I was given in your stead.
I have found you, freed you, healed you, my compassion you can trust,
I redeem the undeserving, I am generous with my love.**

**Bring your wounded, all your broken, who can’t stand up on their own.
Who are weak beyond dignity, who will never become strong.
They will only need more helping, each investment is a loss.
Yes, bring all those who could never, return any of their cost.**

**Jesus Christ, says “Gather to me, all you lost, you poor, you dead!
I’m your sacrifice, your ransom, I was given in your stead.
I have found you, freed you, healed you, my compassion you can trust,
I redeem the undeserving, I am generous with my love.**

**Bring your bound, the souls imprisoned, bullied by the threat of pain,
Who have tried and tried for freedom, but have always failed escape.
Those who live with their aggressor, whisp’ring doubts into their ear,
Who dare not hope on a savior, lest they be crushed by despair.**

**Jesus Christ, says “Gather to me, all you lost, you poor, you dead!
I’m your sacrifice, your ransom, I was given in your stead.
I have found you, freed you, healed you, my compassion you can trust,
I redeem the undeserving, I am generous with my love.**

Nathan Partain, 2014

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture

Romans 8:5-8

Reader

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Sam Haist

The Wages of Doomscrolling

Community Group Questions

- 1) What we “set our minds on” are the things that absorb our thoughts, desires, interests, etc. If you were to take a minute to step back and consider the things you give your attention to, what stands out? What kinds of things tend to occupy your thoughts? What captures your imagination? What do you find yourself daydreaming about?
- 2) According to Paul, “to set the mind on the flesh” is death, but “to set the mind on the Spirit” brings life and peace. What do you think that means? And why do you think God cares so much about our thought lives?
- 3) A.W. Tozer says, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” When you think about Paul’s words in Romans 8:5-8, what thoughts come to mind? Does God seem good? Does God seem oppressive? When it comes to something as intimate as our thought life, is God bringing us to a place of freedom and joy? Or does it seem like he’s trying to micromanage us?

Children’s Questions:

Think about the things you’ve thought about today. What comes to mind? Did you think about Jesus? How could thinking about Jesus help us feel happy and safe?

Call to Communion

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

Redeemer welcomes 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 to receive Communion with us. 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 (in a socially distanced way).

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.

Closing Hymn

“There is a Fountain”

All

**There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel’s veins,
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains;
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains,
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day,
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away;
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away,
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.**

**E’er since by faith I saw the stream, thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die;
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.**

**Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood, shall never lose its pow’r,
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more;
Be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more,
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more.**

**When this poor lisping, stamm’ring tongue lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I’ll sing thy pow’r to save;
I’ll sing thy pow’r to save, I’ll sing thy pow’r to save,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I’ll sing thy pow’r to save.**

words William Cowper, 1771; music Lowell Mason, 1830; Public Domain

Community Life

Ash Wednesday Prayer Services,
Wednesday, February 17 @ 6:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Grace Marriage

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.**

Benediction

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