



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 28th, 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.

Explanation of Vestments

By Hidi Gardner

God hears us when we cry out to him. Our tears are important enough to God that he collects them. (Psalm 56:8) Tears are a physical representation of our sorrows. Our tears matter to God because we are his beloved treasure.

(from a conversation with my kids)

“Mommy, does God hear me?”

“Yes, he hears you.”

“So he knows when I’m sad? Does he hear me cry?”

“Yes, he always hears you. He hears you when you’re happy and when you’re sad. He loves you so very much. He treasures you. He even collects your tears when you cry.”

“He collects my tears? Why?”

“Why do you collect things? Why do you save them?”

“I save things that are important to me.”

“God collects your tears because you are important to him.”

Welcome

Call to Worship

From Psalm 67

Leader May God be merciful and bless us.
May his face smile with favor on us.

All **May your ways be known throughout the earth,
your saving power among people everywhere.**

Leader May the nations praise you, O God.
Yes, may all the nations praise you.

All **Let the whole world sing for joy,
because you govern the nations with justice
and guide the people of the whole world.**

Leader May the nations praise you, O God.
Yes, may all the nations praise you.

All **Then the earth will yield its harvests,
and God, our God, will richly bless us.
Yes, God will bless us,
and people all over the world will fear him.**

Opening Hymn

“Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord”

All

women: **Alleluia** men: **Alleluia** women: **Alleluia** men: **Alleluia**

**Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord! Let all your graces be outpoured,
On each believer’s mind and heart, Your fervent love to us impart.
Lord, by the brightness of your light, You in the faith do men unite,
Of every land and every tongue; this to your praise, O Lord, be sung.**

women: **Alleluia** men: **Alleluia** women: **Alleluia** men: **Alleluia**

**From every error keep us free; let none but Christ our Master be,
That we in living faith abide in him, with all our might confide.
Lord, by your pow’r prepare each heart, and to the weakness strength impart,
That bravely here we may contend through life, and death to you ascend.**

women: **Alleluia** men: **Alleluia** women: **Alleluia** men: **Alleluia**

words: Martin Luther, 1524, from 11th cent. Antiphon; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855; music: Nathan Partain, 2000

Prayer of Adoration and Preparation

Prayer of Confession

Based on Psalm 139:23-24; Romans 8:9-17; James 4:1-2

Leader

Children of God, in this season of Lent,
let us ask the Lord to search us and know our hearts.

All

**Father, uncover what is offensive in us,
so that you may lead us in the path of everlasting life.**

Leader

All

We have an obligation to live according to the Spirit.

**Yet, we can see how we live according to the flesh:
When a problem comes up, our first thought is, "How do I solve this?"
rather than bringing it to God and seeking him.
We act like there's nothing more than this world,
so we quarrel and scheme to get what's ours.**

Leader

All

Because we live by the flesh, we live in fear.

**Fear that we'll be exposed and thus rejected,
Fear that we won't be loved, that we can't be loved,
Fear that we're on our own, abandoned as orphans,
Fear that our good won't measure up,
Fear that our wrong will find us out.**

Leader

Spirit of God, lead us through confession and repentance,
away from the flesh and fear,
to the holy and kind heart of our Father.

Lenten Hymn

“O For a Closer Walk with God”

All

**What peaceful hours I once enjoyed! How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void the world can never fill.
Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of grace!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.**

**Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of grace!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.**

words William Cowper, 1772; music Nathan Partain, 2002

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Based on Psalm 103:13-14; Romans 1:4; 8:1-17; Luke 4:1; Hebrews 9:14

Leader Children of God, hear the gracious heart of your Father:

All **Our Father shows tender compassion to us his children,
because he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.**

Leader So, he sent his Son to take on flesh, like us in every way, for our sin.

All **Full of the Spirit,
our older brother Jesus lived our life for us.
Through the Spirit,
he offered himself as the sacrifice in our place.
In the Spirit,
God raised him from the dead to power and authority.**

Leader Because you are in Christ, this very same Spirit now lives in you!

All **The Spirit brought us into the family.
He confirms to us, “Yes, you are God’s adopted child.
You really do belong here.”**

Leader His Spirit gives us life now to put to death the misdeeds of the body.

All **And his Spirit will raise our bodies to give us everlasting life.**

Song in the Gospel

“A Child of God”

All **I’m a child of God, and love is my freedom;
I can ask anything of my Father the King.
I’m an heir, I’m adopted, and my brother is Jesus;
I’m a child of God, and my soul is at peace.**

Nathan Partain, 2011

Song in the Gospel

“Abide in Me”

All

**Abide in me, O Lord, and I in Thee;
From this good hour, oh, leave me nevermore.
Then shall the discord cease, the wound be healed,
The lifelong bleeding of the soul be o'er.
Abide in me; o'ershadow by Thy love
Each half-formed purpose and dark thought of sin;
Quench ere it rise each selfish, low desire;
And keep my soul as Thine, calm and divine.**

**We raise our voices to the Father.
He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit.
Let your name be hallowed. Let your kingdom come.**

**As some rare perfume in a vase of clay
Pervades it with a fragrance not its own,
So, when Thou dwellest in a mortal soul,
All heaven's own sweetness seems around it thrown.
Abide in me; there have been moments blest
When I have heard Thy voice and felt Thy power;
Then evil lost its grasp; and passion, hushed,
Owned the divine enchantment of the hour.**

**We raise our voices to the Father.
He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit.
Let your name be hallowed. Let your kingdom come.**

**These were but seasons beautiful and rare;
Abide in me, and they shall ever be;
Fulfill at once Thy precept and my prayer,
Come, and abide in me, and I in Thee.**

**We raise our voices to the Father.
He hears our prayers through his Son.
We are enabled by his Spirit.
Let your name be hallowed. Let your kingdom come.**

words Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1855; chorus and music Nathan Partain, 2002

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture

Romans 8:9-13

Reader

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Ben Reed

How Great a Debtor

Community Group Questions

- 1) The word that is translated “debtors” in verse 12 means, “someone who is morally obligated to do something.” What does it look like when we live as if we are morally obligated to follow our flesh/sinful desires?
- 2) We all struggle against sin even when we are living as debtors to the Spirit. In the midst of that struggle against sin, how does our life look different if we are living as debtors to the Spirit versus living as debtors to the flesh?
- 3) What are ways that your flesh/sinful desires continue to fight for your heart? If you feel comfortable sharing (either in broad strokes or in more detail), feel free to do so. Spend some time both in the group and this week praying and asking the Lord to shine a bright light on the ways you are tempted to live as a debtor to the flesh.

Children’s Questions:

Do you have a brother, sister or friend who is really annoying? What are some of the bad or wrong ways you react to them when they annoy you? Are there times that you try really, really hard not to respond the wrong way to them, but they just keep being annoying?

That is how Paul talks about sin. It is going to keep annoying us, and we have to fight to avoid responding the wrong way. But the good news is that God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us do that! How do you think the Holy Spirit can help you fight against sin?

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

“Come Holy Ghost”

All

**Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heav’nly aid to fill our hearts which thou hast made,
To fill our hearts which Thou has made.**

**O Comforter, to thee we cry, Thou heav’nly gift of God most high;
Thou fount of life, and fire of love, and sweet anointing from above,
And sweet anointing from above.**

Be not afraid—where you go, there I am with you.

**O Holy Ghost, through thee alone, know we the Father and the Son;
Be this our firm unchanging creed, that thou dost from them both proceed,
That thou dost from them both proceed.**

Be not afraid—where you go, there I am with you.

**Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, and Holy Spirit with them one;
And may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow,
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.**

**Be not afraid—where you go, there I am with you.
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.**

*words: Veni, Creator Spiritus, attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856, additional chorus by: Ray Mills, 2005;
Music Bruce Benedict and Ray Mills, 2005, ©2006 Cardiphonia Music, and Raymond G. Mills*

Community Life

Lenten Prayer Guides

Email Ben Reed, ben@redeemindy.org, to request a paper or digital copy.

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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