

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# EASTERTIDE

APRIL 18, 2021



## **Cover Art**

*Kipp Normand*

## **Flower Installation**

*Hidi Gardner led the concept, and many in our community worked to make many, many flowers.*

## **Tree Window Covering**

*Barb Knuckles and the Kyle Ragsdale Community Group*

## **Vestments**

*Lauren McElhaney and Molly Kelly*

## **Communion Set**

*TJ Samuels*

# Welcome

## Call to Worship

*Psalm 121*

*Leader* I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there?

*All* **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!**

*Leader* He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber.

*All* **Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.**

*Leader* The LORD himself watches over you!  
The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.

*All* **The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.**

*Leader* The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

*All* **The LORD will keep your going out and coming in, both now and forevermore.**

# Opening Hymn

*“Jesus, My Comfort”*

*All*

**Jesus, my comfort, O may your will be mine;  
Into your hands of love I resign.  
Jesus, my great hope, all shall be well for me;  
What this day may bring, I trust with thee.**

**Jesus, my comfort, Jesus my sweet rest,  
Jesus, my wellspring, you bring me life!**

**Jesus, my sweet rest, though often seen through tears;  
Let not my faith grow dim or disappear.  
Jesus, my savior, in you alone I trust;  
All other lovers will lead me to loss.**

**Jesus, my comfort, Jesus my sweet rest,  
Jesus, my wellspring, you bring me life!**

**Jesus, my wellspring, you alone bring me life;  
Drinking from you I never will die.  
Jesus, my lover, into your desert lead me;  
Hear me cry ‘Husband,’ call me to sing.**

**Jesus, my comfort, Jesus my sweet rest,  
Jesus, my wellspring, you bring me life!**

*words: based on an ancient hymn; music: Rick Jensen, 2002*

# Prayer of Adoration

## Prayer of Lament and Confession

*Leader* In this Easter season of resurrection, we lament the power of death in our midst.

*All* **We grieve the reality of death,  
from disease and in violence.  
We grieve how we die before we die:  
In loneliness and isolation,  
In addiction and abuse.  
This world is not how it was meant to be.**

*Leader* The Easter season calls us into the in-between:  
We have already been raised with Christ,  
and yet we still wait for our resurrection at the last day.

*All* **We confess that we don't wait well for God.  
We impatiently take matters into our own hands,  
as if we can find wholeness on our own.  
Distracted by the pursuits of this world,  
we don't groan for Christ to come again.  
We shrink back from suffering for Christ,  
preferring comfort over sacrificial love for others.**

*Leader* God of all creation and of our hearts—Father, Son, and Spirit—  
Have mercy and hear our lament and confession.

# Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

*Based on Romans 8*

*Leader* Hear this command of comfort and hope, “Do not fear!”

*All* **Jesus has died and been raised from the dead!**

*Leader* Do not fear!

*All* **We have been crucified, buried, and raised with him.**

*Leader* Do not fear!

*All* **Christ is our head, our husband, our covering, and our hope.**

*Leader* Do not fear!

*All* **We are no longer in our sins. We have been forgiven!**

*Leader* Do not fear!

*All* **The Spirit groans in us and for us and will raise us from the dead!**

*Leader* Do not fear! He is risen!

*All* **He is risen indeed!**

# Song in the Gospel

*“Before the Throne of God Above”*

*All*

**Before the throne of God above, I have a strong, a perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is “Love,” who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav’n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.  
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!  
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.**

**One with Himself I cannot die, My soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.**

*words: by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1892); alternate words and music: by Vikki Cook, 2006*

## Prayer of Dependence

## Offering of Gifts and Service

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



# Remembering Our Baptism

*Based on Matthew 28:18-20*

*Leader*

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*Westminster Shorter Catechism: Question #94*

What is Baptism?

*All*

**Baptism is a sacrament in which the washing with water,  
in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
does signify and seal our grafting into Christ,  
and receiving of the benefits of the covenant of grace,  
and our engagement to be the Lord’s.**

## Song of Baptism

*“Baptized in Water”*

*Leader*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting His promise, faithfully now God’s praises we sing.

*All*

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, looking to heaven now we sing.**

**In the name of God, the Father, with the Son and Holy Ghost.**

*Trad. Gaelic Melody, Michael Seward, add. lyrics Bruce Benedict, 1982*



# Covenant Baptism

*2nd Service*

Josephine Holland Lotz

## Parents' Vows

*Leader*

1. Do you acknowledge Josephine's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly commit Josephine to God and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

## Congregation's Vows

*Leader*

Our God made a covenant with Abraham, the father of all who believe, saying, "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

*All*

**Peter preached the gospel to the church saying,  
"The promise is for you and your children.  
and for all who are far off  
for all whom the Lord our God will call."**

Do you, the members of this congregation, receive Josephine Lotz into this church as one whom God has called his own according to the covenant? And do you now promise to surround her with Christian love, to pray for her, and to set an example of genuine faith and virtue?

*All*

**We do, for whoever welcomes this child of God in Christ's name, welcomes him.  
And whoever welcomes Christ, welcomes the one who sent him.**

# Scripture

*Romans 8:18–23*

*Reader*

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

# Sermon

Sam Haist

*God's Children Groan*

# Community Group Questions

1) In Romans 8:18, Paul says that our present sufferings are “not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” How does that strike you? Given the amount of pain that we experience, how can that even be true? What does it look like to “groan” in the present, while holding out hope for our “glory” in the future?

2) Take a moment to compare Romans 8:14–17 and Romans 8:19–23. How can it be true that we are both already “children of God” (v. 16), while also “eagerly awaiting” our adoption in the future (v. 23)? How do we make sense of this tension? What does it tell us about our experience today?

3) These verses are all about “groaning.” As you look at your own life, where do you groan? Where do you ache? If you’re willing to share, where do you most experience this longing for wholeness?

# Song of Lament

*"All Those Who Sow Weeping" (Psalm 126)*

*All*

**Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter.  
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord. Restore us, O Lord.**

**Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing,  
The seeds of Your Kingdom, For the day you will reap them.  
Your sheaves we will carry, Lord, please do not tarry.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy.**

**The nations will say, "He has done great things!"  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord. Restore us, O Lord.**

**Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing,  
The seeds of Your Kingdom, For the day you will reap them.  
Your sheaves we will carry, Lord, please do not tarry.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy.**

*Isaac Wardell, 2012*

# 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

*“In Christ Alone”*

*All*

**In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone!—who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This Gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid: Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the power of Christ in me.  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.  
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!**

*Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2001*

## 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.**

## **Community Life**

Men's Chili Cookoff, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

## **Benediction**

# Contact Us

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Worship, Hospitality, and Liturgical Arts / [worship@redeemindy.org](mailto:worship@redeemindy.org)

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year to date giving:  
\$517,634.84

2021 budget:  
\$2,487,554

## Congregational Giving

April 11 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$	\$27,404.44
April Total .....	\$	\$42,087.59
April Budget .....	\$	\$207,296.17

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