



Christmastide

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
31 December 2023

God



Back Wall

Kyrie Lewis, Esther Gray, and Katie Ito with the Yeomans and Peacock families, Sacred Lineage, Holy Dependence, 2023, oil of canvas, fabric, baskets, and clay

Themes of hospitality, womanhood, and human dependence are woven together in this piece. The women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy: Ruth, Tamar, Bathsheba, and Rahab, call out to us across generations before Mary. Their words and wombs bear witness to the protective and steadfast love of God, represented in the cluster of baskets at the center. Their portraits flank the table-like installation, illustrating the intimate meeting of heaven and earth through a teenager that made space in her literal body to bear Christ.

We call attention to Mary through the clay artifacts in each basket that honor her pregnancy, as her cells expanded and divided, as her body stretched, bled, and tore to make way for the Living Word to dwell as flesh among us. The edge of the table is lined with a braided rope, reminiscent of an umbilical cord. Christ baptizes our human dependency through his reception of Mary's nourishment, hospitality, and affection.

Rejoice! Christ has put on flesh and bone for you. May we extend kindness and reverence to our bodies and our limits as we bear Christ in our daily life to our communities.

Procession Art

Barb Knuckles, Susan Jones, Tom Peck, and Marcia Jones, 2023

Jesus was incarnate at the hidden level of cells and DNA. The four stands are made from a fallen sycamore branch, with the processed symbols of life sprouting from the dead "stumps". Week One is blood cells, Week Two is nerve and skin cells, Week Three is bone and muscle cells, and Week Four is ultrasound images. The four "trees" also allude to the Body of Christ, made up of many parts, with Christ as the Head.

Banners

Karyl Boring, *Dwelling as We Wait*, 2023

The patchwork of our dwelling together as God's people is joined piece-by-piece with all those who have lived or will live, past, present and future, eagerly longing for Jesus' Return in Glory. Yet, in all of life, Jesus comes to us to dwell in and through us by his Holy Spirit. In joy and sorrow, in community and in solitude, in conflict and peace, in work and rest, in birth and death, in the light of day and the darkness of night, he is present with us as we wait. What wonder in this glorious, mysterious Truth!

Columns

Josie Thompson with Maggie Lotz, Merri Goebel, Moriah Taft, Sam Ueltschi, Megan Smith, and Quinton Thompson, 2023

South Window

Caleb Keitt and Derek Bender with Mendy & Emma Foster and Trisha McHugh, *In Your Mercy*, 2023

Communion Set

Emily Johnston

One can find a few meanings from this piece's colors. The light and dark clay symbolizes how, during birth, the baby emerges from the dark in the womb and into the light outside. It also illustrates the belief that Jesus was the light coming into the dark world. The swirl pattern shows the movement of the dark when lightened. The blue color is in honor of Mary, who delivered Jesus.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 40

Leader Blessed is the one
who trusts in the LORD,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.

All **Many, LORD my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.**

Leader None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.

All **You are my help and my deliverer;
you are my God, do not delay.**

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.**

refrain:

**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.**

(refrain)

**O come, thou day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadow put to flight.**

(refrain)

(refrain)

words Anonymous, 9th cen.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Leader The eternal Son of God took on flesh and blood, with a real body and soul,
and was born as Jesus, fully divine and fully human.

All **We imagine a Jesus who isn't really like us:
He floats above the ground by a few inches
and is too divine to really be human.**

Leader Jesus matured and got stronger, bigger, wiser;
he grew in favor with God and people.

All **We don't want process—we want results now.
It's hard to grow in our faith; it's slow.
We get discouraged and quit trying.
Sanctification must be for other people, not us.**

Leader Without a Jesus who's really human,
we act as if he's too far away to relate to us.

All **Jesus can't understand what I'm struggling with—
What does he know about it?
Maybe he's too exalted to care about what gets me excited,
or what keeps me up at night worried.
We decide things on our own, we don't depend on Jesus,
we take matters into our own hands.
We live functionally as if we don't have a savior.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

based on Isaiah 53; Hebrews 2; 4

Leader The Son of God became like us in every way,
 in order to save us, to rescue us,
 so that he could make atonement for our sins.

All **Because he's really human, Jesus can be our substitute;
 he takes our place and bears our sin.**

Leader Jesus, you know what it's like to be discouraged or tired,
 curious, excited, upset, angry,
 even to suffer when you're tempted.
Praise God, that through the whole of your life,
 you trusted your Father and did not sin.

All **Help us when we're tempted:
 Give us the power of your Spirit to say yes to our Father
 who loves us, controls all things, and will keep his promises.**

Leader Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
All **So that we may receive mercy and find grace
 to help us in our time of need.**

Song in the Gospel

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

All

**How deep the Father’s love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the Man upon a cross,
My guilt upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there,
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no powr’s, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

**How deep the Father’s love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.**

Stuart Townend, 1995

Song in the Gospel

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

All

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

Charles Wesley, 1744

Prayer of Dependence

Chad and Kim Davis

Children's Worship + Nursery

Redeemer Kids' mission is to partner with parents to help kids develop a lifetime relationship with Jesus. We love having children of any age join us in the worship service and also provide options to families that can engage young children wherever they are developmentally.

The Nursery welcomes children ages 0-3.

Children's Worship welcomes kids ages 4-Kindergarten. We are glad to extend this age and make additional accommodations on a case by case basis (e-mail emily@redeemindy.org.)

You are welcome to drop your children off at any point. Kids attending Children's Worship must be picked up by the end of communion. Nursery and Children's Worship spaces are located through the doors on the front left of the sanctuary.

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

Reader

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Reader

This is the Word of the Lord.

People

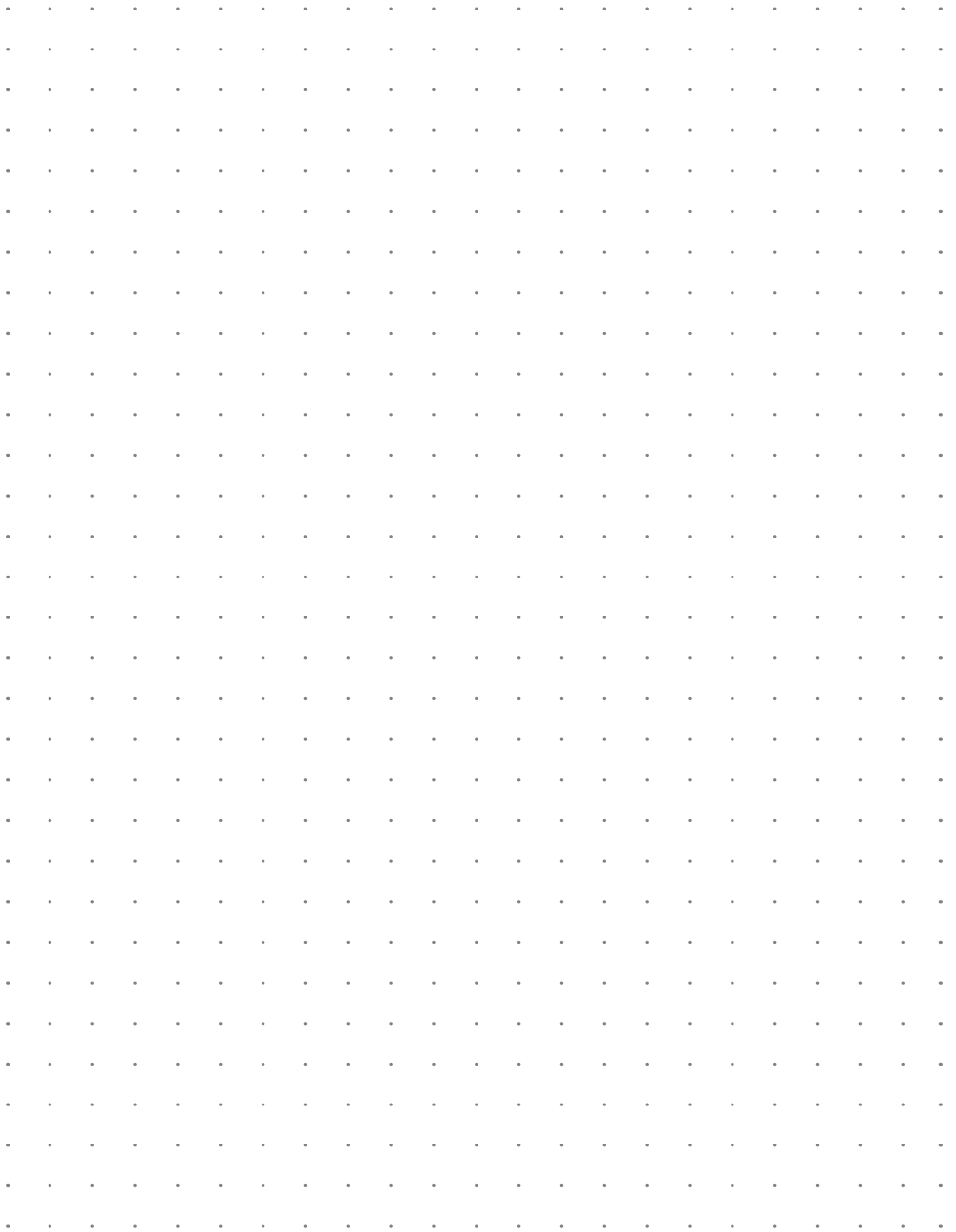
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Ben Hein

Freed From Satan’s Tyranny

Notes



Additional Text

Herman Bavinck (1854-1921)

The New Testament reveals to us a kingdom of evil spirits... At the head of it is Satan, a being called by various names:

“devil,” “Satan, “the enemy” (Matthew 13:39; Luke 10:19),

“the accuser” (Revelation 12:10),

Belial (worthlessness),

“the evil one” (Matthew 13:19; Ephesians 6:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 John 2:13-14; 3:12; 5:18),

“Beelzebul” (probably derived from Beelzebub, god of the flies) (Matthew 10:25),

“prince of demons” (Matthew 9:34),

“the ruler of the kingdom of the air” (Ephesians 2:2 NIV),

“the ruler of this world” (John 12:31),

“the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4),

“the great dragon, “the ancient serpent” (Revelation 12:9; 20:2; etc.).

Subordinate to him are numerous demons, evil spirits, unclean spirits, and spiritual hosts of wickedness, which are in turn subdivided into various classes and ranks (1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:15; Jude 6), surpass each other in wickedness (Matthew 12:45; Luke 11:26), and together form Satan’s messengers (Matthew 25:41; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Revelation 12:7, 9). Always and everywhere they are the adversaries of God, the disturbers of his kingdom, the opponents of Christ, the deceivers of humans, the accusers of God’s children. They live in sin as their natural element. Christ has not assumed their nature. For them there is no hope of restoration and salvation.

1 John 3:8

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

-C. René Padilla (1932-2021)

The gospel is the good news of the victory of Jesus Christ over the powers of darkness. The Savior whose death was an atonement for sin is also the Lord who “disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15). His salvation provides not only freedom from the consequences of sin but also freedom from the power of sin. It deals not only with humanity’s reconciliation to God but also with a complete restructuring of life according to the model for the new humanity provided by God in Jesus Christ. In other words, the gospel offers not only a religious experience but also a new creation, a new lifestyle under the rule of God.

Call to Communion

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

Redeemer welcomes to Communion 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. 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.

Prayer

If you would like personal prayer during this time you can meet with today's prayer leaders, Chad and Kim Davis, located in the back.

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.

Song of Celebration

“Amazing Grace”

All **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.**

**And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.**

**When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.**

**We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise,
Than when we’d first begun.**

words: John Newton and John Rees (verse 5); music: American folk tune

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!
Amen.**

Community Life

Feb. 2-3

DEADLINE
Dec. 31

CIP Men's Retreat Join us for a great opportunity to connect with other men, and set aside time to grow together in Christ! Bob Smart, pastor of Christ Church in Normal, IL, will address questions men ask as we are transformed by the gospel. *Email Sam (sam@redeemindy.org). Use the QR code to sign up.*



Spring Bible Study Registration is Open

Redeemer Women and Men will study the Book of Proverbs this spring.

You will choose the option and time that works best for you (these are the same as the fall times.) Your Bible study leader will contact you by email as soon as possible after registration closes on January 14th. Register at redeemindy.org/spring-bible-studies or by using the QR code included here.



Church Plant Newsletter Want to learn more about our current church planting team and what they are up to in the Near Westside/Haughville area? *Use the QR code to sign-up for their newsletter to stay up to date.*



More information can be found at our website: redeemindy.org.

Closing Hymn

“All Glory Be To Christ”

All

**Should nothing of our efforts stand; no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow’s gain, tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, All glory be to Christ!**

**His will be done His kingdom come on earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, All glory be to Christ!**

**When on the day the great I am the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be all glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, All glory be to Christ!**

**All glory be to Christ our King! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we’ll ever sing, All glory be to Christ!**

words: Dustin Kensrue, to the tune of Auld Lang Syne

Benediction

Contact Us

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New Hope Counseling / counseling@newhopeindianapolis.org

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Giving / giving@redeemindy.org

Global Missions / missions@redeemindy.org

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) / mops@redeemindy.org

General Info / info@redeemindy.org

	2023 year-to-date giving:
	\$2,662,776
<hr/>	
	January-December 2023 budget:
	\$2,785,909

Congregational Giving

December 3, 2023	\$ 45,068
December 10, 2023	\$ 126,982
December 17, 2023	\$ 59,915
December 24, 2023	\$ 94,353
December Total	\$ 326,318

Membership at Redeemer

Membership is meaningful in multiple ways. First, we believe that as Christians, it is a part of our calling to be active and engaged in the Church. When you become a member, you take public vows to confirm your faith in Christ and commit to his Church. These vows submit members to the leadership and discipline of the church. We submit ourselves to accountability just like in marriage, friendship, citizenship, and any other relationship or institution that we enter into.

Membership also allows you certain benefits. Members in good standing are able to vote on church matters. They elect elders, call pastors, and have a say in other church business.

To become a member at Redeemer you must take our Discovering Redeemer class and meet with an elder for an interview. You will take membership vows privately and then publicly before the church. To begin this process, email info@redeemindy.org.

Contact Us

1505 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317.238.5487
www.redeemindy.org

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Classes
10:00 a.m.

Nice to Meet You

We're glad you're here and we'd love to get to know you better. Please help us do that by filling out whatever information you are comfortable sharing below. *Tear it off and put it in the offering plate, or bring it to the Welcome Desk in the back of the sanctuary for a small gift!* We'll be in touch.

I AM A...

- 1st/2nd-time Guest Out-of-Town Guest
 Regular Attendee Redeemer Member

FIRST & LAST NAME

- Male Female

SPOUSE OR FRIEND

- Male Female

CONTACT

Email

Phone

USE THE QR CODES IF YOU'D LIKE TO...*



Receive the
Church Newsletter

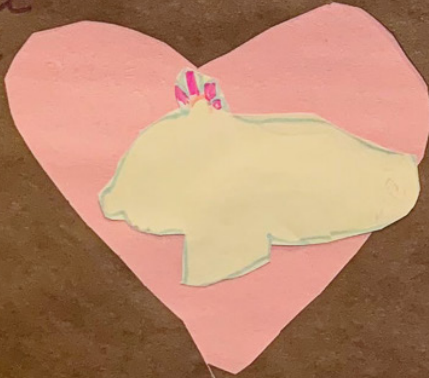


Join a Community
Group

*Go to www.redeemindy.org/ministries for a full list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions.

Jesus
Love's
Me So
Much

olive
juliet
engel



REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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