



18 DECEMBER 2022

## Cover Art

*"For With God Nothing Shall Be Impossible" by Kipp Normand*

## Back Wall Toile of Shepherds and Angels

*Made by congregants of all ages*

## Banners

*"Enlightened Juxtaposition" by Karyl Boring, Marcia Jones, Caleb C. Keitt, and Advent Workshop*

## Stair Caps

*Mailboxes by Landon Shire, Dirk Edwards, and Tom Peck*

## South Window

*"Let the Light In" by Kipp Normand, Kyle Ragsdale, Marcia Jones, and Kate Brumbaugh*

*The south window was created using cyanotype, a photographic process. As sunlight acts as the developing light source, objects and images placed on the fabric appear white.*

*The poem mentions old discarded vessels of light -- we are reminded of this building, once abandoned then brought back to life. But before that, a congregation dreamed for this building and prayed for a thriving congregation -- a seven-day-a-week building. (Images of their prayers and plans and history are embedded in the cyanotype.) We are reminded that Jesus has been bringing light and has been writing us into his story for decades right here on this corner. We are seeing it unfold with light.*

## Delft Pottery

*Advent Workshop*

## Table Runner

*Advent Workshop*

## Communion Set

*Noelle Hoover*

*Use the QR code to see the historic pictures of Redeemer Presbyterian Church used in the tapestry on the South Window.*



# Processional 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.**

*words Anonymous, 9th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; music French melody, 15th cent*

## Arrival Letter

*Reader*     The apostle Paul writes in his letter:

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 mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

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. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

# Call to Worship

*from Isaiah 11:12-16*

*Leader*

The LORD will raise his son, like a banner for the nations  
and he will gather the exiles of Israel;  
he will assemble his scattered people.

*All*

**They will be united by his grace, they will rejoice together,  
They will be victorious together.  
He will take away every barrier,  
As when he brought his children up out of Egypt,  
He will make their path home to him.**

## Processional Hymn

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

*All*

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind,  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease  
And be thyself our King of Peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*words Anonymous, 9th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; music French melody, 15th cent*

# Letter of Confession

*All*

Dear Jesus,

I can't rest. I don't feel secure.

I wonder if you even like me.

I am anxious and driven, like there is something else I need to do.

You say that I am like the favorite child

who can crawl onto the lap of the Almighty King,

never treated as an interruption but always delighted in.

You say that you are always eager to hear my thoughts

and that I have your tender attention.

But I leave your lap. I feel like you are disappointed in me;

I've started to see you as harsh and impatient,

and think you only know tough love,

that you are waiting for me to be happy just to teach me some hard lesson,

to pummel my heart with what's best for me.

So I'm guarded toward you, and on my own to feel worthy,

but I grow frustrated, hopeless, and impatient.

I'm quick to condemn others.

When people hurt me, when they do me wrong,

I have no compassion, only judgment.

I want them to pay.

Forgiveness is like adding to the injustice—

the injured having to absorb the cost of the one who harmed?

My heart is closing up, Jesus,

walled off from you, more and more lost to myself.

I can't bear to admit any wrong or weakness,

I'm already at such a deficit, any acknowledgement of failure is crushing.

You say to come to you and you will give me rest.

You say you have forgiven me and made me so rich that I can pay the cost of others.

You say you are not stingy but are instead offensively generous, generous.

Here I am Lord. Help me.

I am bound up in control,

unwilling to forgive,

and bitter from all the striving.

Release me into your arms, where I can find everything is well with you.

Tangled, not yet free,

Your Beloved

# Letter of Redemption

*From Isaiah 43; Psalm 103:12 and John 1:16; James 4:5, Psalm 23:5, Zephaniah 3:17*

*Leader*

My Beloved, I see your wrestling,  
and I am jealous for your whole heart to rest in me.  
Remember, when you hated me, ugly with evil, eager to choose death,  
I loved you, suffered for you and gave you my very life.  
Do not be afraid. I will not change my mind now.

I have redeemed you completely.  
I have called you specifically, claimed you as my own.  
You are my responsibility now.

You are not just forgiven, you are deeply enjoyed.  
You are not just rescued, you are dripping with blessing.  
You are not just adopted, you are celebrated as royalty.  
You are precious and honored in my sight,  
and I love you.

Do not be afraid. I am always with you.  
No one can take you out of my hand,  
And when I save, it cannot be reversed.

Forget the former things.  
Do not dwell on the past.  
Look! I am doing something new.  
It is already springing up.  
Can you see it?  
I have made the way for you.

You have betrayed and rejected me;  
There is nothing you could offer to ever make things right.

So please believe me when I tell you...  
I have accomplished for you, all my delight,  
my whole being, with no hesitation or reserve, is for you.  
My joy over you is unshakable.  
You cannot ruin it or increase it, your cup already overflows.  
I dance, when I think of you,  
I sing over you!

Keep these words I am sending you,  
They still will be true tomorrow, whether you feel it or not.  
I will be with you; my favor is on you, blessing you with grace upon grace,  
For this is my glory; this is who I am.

Always abounding in steadfast love for you,

Your Savior

# Song in the Gospel

*“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*

# Song in the Gospel

*“Thou Who Wast Rich”*

*All*

**Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor.**

**Thou who are God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,  
Heav’nward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who are God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man.**

**Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.**

*words Frank Houghton; music French Carol Melody,  
arr. by Charles Kitson, 1930*



# Prayer of Dependence

## Children's Worship

*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 but also want to provide options to families that can engage young children wherever they're at developmentally. The Nursery welcomes children ages 0-3.\* Children ages 3-5 are also still welcome to attend Children's Worship. We hope this added flexibility encourages all families as they teach their children about what it means to worship.*

*\*If you would like your three year-old to attend Nursery and are able, we'd love to encourage you to attend the 11:00 service where more classroom space is available.*

## Offering of Gifts and Service

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



## Financial Giving Update

*As we approach the end of the year, we want to keep you updated on our current financial situation.*

- 2022 Budget: \$2,751,920
- 2022 Giving: \$2,270,180
- 2022 Still Needed: \$481,110

*Please prayerfully consider the role you can play in helping us reach this goal. In addition to giving online or through cash or check, you can give stocks or other appreciated assets.*

*Please email [giving@redeemindy.org](mailto:giving@redeemindy.org) with any questions.*

# Scripture Reading

*Luke 1:57-80*

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David  
<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—  
<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

<sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

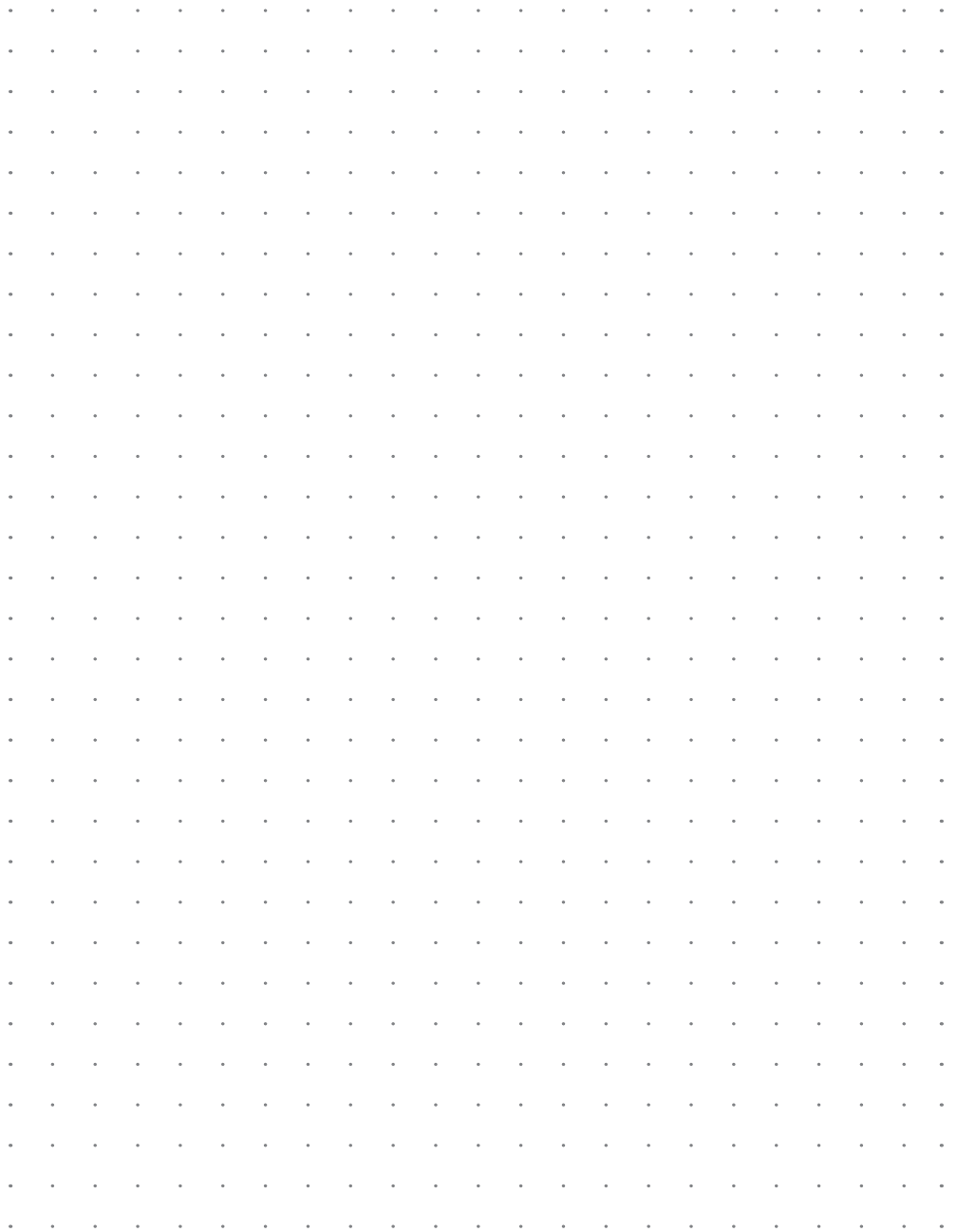
*Reader  
People*

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

Charles Anderson  
*A Song of Prepositions*

# Notes



## Community Group Questions

1. *What are you excited about right now? What makes your heart sing? Where on that list does your faith fit (if it does)? If it's not—and let's be real about the transforming safety of the gospel and admit if it isn't—why do you think that is? What would it take to be more excited about your faith?*
2. *Zechariah's song in Luke 1:67-79 is chock full of truths about salvation that lead him to sing and praise God for. As you read the passage and reflect on the sermon, which truths jump out at you? Which ones are new or feel new to you? Which ones could maybe kindle excitement for you? Which ones feel remote or distant?*
3. *Take some time as a group to pray in your own words Zechariah's song and praise the Lord for his salvation. Brainstorm concrete ways that you can cultivate more joy in your salvation this week.*

# 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.*

## 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.*

# Song of Celebration

*“Emmanuel”*

*All*

**He comes to be the Word that all words are judged by.  
He comes to be the Light that all lights are seen by.  
He comes to be the Blood that all debts are paid by.  
He comes to be the Word that all words are judged by.**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**He comes to bring some rest to the heavy laden.  
He comes to gut the one who abused his children.  
He comes to burn all memories of Satan.  
He comes to bring some rest to the heavy laden.**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**We beheld him, we have seen God’s face.  
We have touched him, “God with us” remained.  
We received him, we believed in his name, in his name, in his name.**

**He comes to lift our heads to proclaim his witness.  
He comes to dwell in us to reflect his radiance.  
He comes to send us out, his incarnate presence.  
He comes to lift our heads to proclaim his witness.**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**When He comes again then we will be always with him.**

*Nathan Partain, 2012*

## 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

Today  
10 am

**Advent Sunday School Class** Join us for a special Sunday School class on the “Mothers of Jesus” in the gym. The 1 Samuel Bible Study will meet in the Speck Gallery. Redeemer Kids classes will take place in their normal locations. Middle School Students will meet in the Underground, while High School Students will be in Room 205.

December 21  
4-7 pm

**Redeemer Kids Christmas Party** Christ’s birth is good news of great joy meant for all people. Wear your Christmas pajamas and enjoy pancakes and toppings in the Underground. We’ll have a live Nativity Petting Zoo in the back parking lot, a service project for Shepherd Community Center, and other fun activities in the Gym and Speck Gallery. *Use the QR code to register. If you would like to volunteer email Emily (emily@redeemindy.org).*



## Christmas Eve, Christmas Sunday, and New Year’s Day Service Times

Christmas Eve | 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 25 | 10:00 am

Sunday, January 1 | 10:00 am

## Other Upcoming Events

January 1-15

**Save the Date for Winter/Spring Bible Study Sign-ups** Redeemer Women and Redeemer Men will study 2 Samuel this semester. Groups will meet at various times and locations. *Sign-ups will run from January 1-15. Time slot options will be the same as the fall options.*

January 8  
12:30-2 pm

**Better Bible Study Skills Workshop** We will share lunch and discuss what you need to do, what you could do, and what you shouldn’t do when you study your Bible. The workshop is taught by Erin Anderson, Sam Haist, and Emily Pilkington. *Use the QR code to register.*



Tuesdays  
6 am

**Zumba Class** There is no Zumba Class on December 27th, but we will return on Tuesday, January 3rd at 6 am. *If you have any questions, please email women@redeemindy.org.*

**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](http://redeemindy.org).*



# Closing Hymn

*“Canticle of the Turning (Mary’s Song)”*

*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*

# Benediction

# Contact Us

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Counseling / counseling@newhopeindianapolis.org

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Global Missions / missions@redeemindy.org

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

Redeemer Women / women@redeemindy.org

Worship and Liturgical Arts / worship@redeemindy.org

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2022 year to date giving:  
\$2,270,180

January-December 2022 budget:  
\$2,751,920

## Congregational Giving

December 4, 2022 .....	\$	125,180
December 11, 2022 .....	\$	90,967
<b>December Total .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>216,148</b>

# 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 Table 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## I'D LIKE TO... \*

- Become a Member  
 Join a Community Group  
 Use my Artistic Talents  
 Talk to Someone About Counseling  
 Do Something Else:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Go to [www.redeemindy.org/ministries](http://www.redeemindy.org/ministries) for a full list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions.

## 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](mailto:info@redeemindy.org).

## Contact Us

1505 N. Delaware St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
317.238.5487  
[www.redeemindy.org](http://www.redeemindy.org)

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

Classes  
10:00 a.m.



1/16" DIA. 45°

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75 82  
BOLE  
BASE  
TOP  
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ANA OXYGEN CO.  
ANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
22 SHAPE CUTTING MACH.  
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PREPAID SALES TAX  
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