



Cover Art

Bethany Sanders

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

Hanging Installation

"Letters of Hope" by Nick Dodge & Michael Taft with the Fossy Posse

Much like Luke's Gospel, dedicated to Theophilus, comes as a message of hope about Jesus' coming into the world, these hanging letters are meant to remind us of different words of hope we have heard from God and our loved ones this Advent Season. Most of these letters are simply white but if you look closely some of them are misted with gold paint, reminding us of the divine words that come through ordinary letters.

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.



Welcome

Carol

Heyr Hymna, Simeor

String arrangement of Icelandic Hymn

(translation)

Hear, smith of the heavens,

What the poet asks.

May softly come unto me thy mercy.

So I call on thee, for thou hast created me.

I am thy servant, thou art my Lord.

God, I call on thee;

For thee to heal me.

Remember me, mild one, most we need thee.

Drive out, O king of suns, generous and great,

Every human sorrow from the city of thy heart.

music by Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson, 1984

from an Icelandic poem by Kolbeinn Tómasson, 1300.

Lesson 1

from Luke 2:1-7

Reader

Our lessons tonight start in enemy occupied Israel, in a little village called Bethlehem, in the mountains just south of Jerusalem. The Roman Emperor at that time, Caesar Augustus, had ordered a census taken of his empire. So, people gathered to the towns of their family line to register.

This is why a man named Joseph set out from a town called Nazareth to the land of Judea, a ten day journey. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be his wife but was already pregnant. It was then, with relatives from all over, packing out that little village, a hundred miles from their home, that the right time came for Mary to go into labor. All the guest rooms were full and there was no place for them to stay so they sheltered with the livestock and there she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in some cloths that were on hand and made a bed for him in the food trough for the animals.

But in that seemingly normal messy moment, something profound was happening. Ages of promises were coming true, deep mysteries were being revealed, a savior was being born, and God was becoming human.

Carol

“Once in Royal David’s City”

All

Once in royal David’s city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high;
When, like stars, his children crowned,
Praise and glory all around.

words Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; music Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

Lesson 2

from Genesis 3:1-9

Reader

To fully understand this moment of the birth of the son of God, we have to go ages back and look underneath reality. The book of Beginnings tells the story of when the darkness was let in like this.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like him, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Homily

Charles Anderson

Carol

“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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Lesson 3

from Genesis 3:15; 15:5; Galatians 3:14-16; Deuteronomy 18:15; 2 Samuel 7:13

Reader

It was in that early moment, when we had betrayed God, caught in the act, naked and blaming one another, that God first spoke of his plan to provide salvation through the son being born to Mary.

He tells to the Serpent, our Accuser:

“I will make war between the woman and you, and between the son she will bear and any damage that you could do. You will strike at her son’s heel, but he will crush your head.”

This was the first glimpse into God’s heart, for through the generations the mystery of God’s purpose continued to unfold and even expand.

Generations later, God tells Abraham that the miracle son born to him and his wife, after they were far beyond the ability to have children, was the beginning of a miracle family growing into an uncountable nation and that somehow, among them a son would be born, through whom, “all the nations on the earth will be blessed.”

Then 500 years later, God promised his people that this future son would be like Moses, a prophet leader, who would speak for the people to God and speak from God to the people. He would lead them and teach them and shepherd them.

And even later he tells Israel’s great king, David, that the son would be born through his royal family, that he would build an eternal dwelling place for God, and that the kingdom he would bring would last forever.

Carol

“O Savior Rend”

All

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,
Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

O Morning Star, O Radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without your light,
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O, come, lead us with mighty hand,
Through exile to the promised land.

There shall we all our praises bring
Ever to you, our Savior King;
There shall we laud you and adore
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.
Forever and forever more.

words from a German spiritual song; tr. Martin L. Seltz; music Nathan Partain, 2003

Lesson 4

from 2 Kings 17; 25; Isaiah 11

Reader

But through all of these years there were many times when these promises often seemed lost. Over and over again, God's people hated depending on him, they hated being vulnerable to a God they couldn't see and they didn't want to trust his timing or that he would provide the fullness they wanted. So they turned to other countries and kings for help, they turned to politics and scheming, they even turned to other spiritual powers, violent rituals to idols, giving themselves to demons for influence and prosperity and protection.

The evil ran deep. It could not be fixed with guidance and principles or even a great king or perfect system of government. The evil was set against God and it continued to live in his people no matter what they did. No amount of service or sacrifice or faithfulness or love was able to change what they were.

God's heart was broken and jealous for his people, but he did not change his plan. His people were taken away into exile, their home and way of life destroyed, and all of their glory lost. Yet God was waking them up. He told them that although they were like a beautiful tree that had been cut down and dragged away,

A little green stem will grow out of the stump,
like when king David was called from among the sons of Jesse.

God was not done with them. He would call them back to himself to make them ready for his son to come in order to change his people and the world.

Carol

“Savior of the Nations”

All

**Savior of the nations, come, show yourself, the virgin’s Son.
Marvel, heaven, wonder, earth, that our God chose such a birth.**

**Not by human power or seed did the woman’s womb conceive;
Only by the Spirit’s breath was the Word of God made flesh.**

**Christ laid down his majesty, passed through dark Gethsemane.
Though he left his Father’s home, Christ now sits on God’s own throne.**

**Christ in glory intercede for your creature’s suffering need.
Let your resurrecting power soon complete the victory hour.**

**Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come.**

words Ambrose, 4th., and Martin Luther, 1523; tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984
music *Enchiridia*, Erfurt, 1524; arr. Bruce Benedict, 2009 *Cardiphonia Music*

Lesson 5

from Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Ezekiel 36:26-27

Reader

What kind of son would he be? This son would be more than a king, more than a prophet, somehow God himself would come.

As he said through the prophet Isaiah,

“The LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (which means “God with us”)

And again,

“He will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promised to change his people from the inside out: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

Someone small in the world’s eyes would be God’s chosen judge. He would see people’s hearts, he would defend the poor and remove the wicked with the word of his mouth. He would replace the system where the strong use the weak by bringing in a reign of a new kind of peace. He would be raised up like a banner above all the nations and gather all of the faithful to himself. He would himself suffer so that his people would be healed of their disease.

Carol

“What Child is this?”

All

**What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.**

trad. English carol, 16th cent.; adapt. William C. Dix, 1865

Lesson 6

Reader

So when it was time, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's maidservant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Carol

"What Child is this?"

All

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.**

**Raise, raise a song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.**

trad. English carol, 16th cent.; adapt. William C. Dix, 1865

Special Music

“Suddenly, Quietly”

Leader

Suddenly, quietly, light.
Like the star, son of God, song amid the night.
Reaches us, giving up, beaten in the fight.
What sound, a cry breaks through. A child, could this be true?
If God would come like this, what else are he prepared to do?
Yes this is the moment.

A new day is rising, the earth is trembling,
A kingdom is waking, and heaven is signing,
The King’s blood has broken, the doors wide open,
O enter his favor, the news is resounding, the lowly are shouting,
The bright dawn of grace has been born, Christ Jesus is Lord.

Suddenly, violently, peace.
Little lamb, torn in wrath, hanging from the tree,
God himself, loved us while we were enemies.
What love, our fear is through, Our guilt, now is removed.
We stand before the Holy God, yet we are not consumed.
Yes, this is the moment.

A new day is rising, the earth is trembling,
A kingdom is waking, and heaven is signing,
The King’s blood has broken, the doors wide open,
O enter his favor, the news is resounding, the lowly are shouting,
The bright dawn of grace has been born, Christ Jesus is Lord.

Suddenly, wildly, new.
Skies ablaze, trumpets raise the dead to face the truth.
Weeds pulled up, wolves thrown out, never more to wound.
Our tears, you make no more, the loss, not just restored,
When we see you, in your glory, everything will be transformed.
Yes, this is the moment.

A new day is rising, the earth is trembling,
A kingdom is waking, and heaven is signing,
The King’s blood has broken, the doors wide open,
O enter his favor, the news is resounding, the lowly are shouting,
The bright dawn of grace has been born, Christ Jesus is Lord.

Nathan Partain, December 2022

Lesson 7

from Galatians 4:4-7

Reader

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Homily

Charles Anderson

Carol

Heyr Hymna, Simeor

String arrangement of Icelandic Hymn

(translation)

*Watch over me, mild one,
Most we need thee,
Truly every moment in the world of men.
Son of the virgin, send us good causes,
All aid comes from thee, to my deepest heart.*

*music by Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson, 1984
from an Icelandic poem by Kolbeinn Tumason, 1300.*

Valediction

from Isaiah 49:7-9; 2 Corinthians 6:2

Reader

Hear now what the LORD says:

“In the time of my favor I will answer you,
and in the day of salvation I will help you;

I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people,
to raise up the land, to reclaim everything from its devastation,

All

**To say to the captives, ‘Come out,’
and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’**

Reader

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor!

All

Today is the day of salvation!

Carol

“Silent Night”

All

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm; all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, Love's pure light,
Radiant, beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light
With the angels let us sing;
Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

*words Joseph Mohr, c. 1818; vs. 1 & 3 tr. John F. Young, 1863
music Franz Gruber, 1820*



Join Us Tomorrow Morning

We will celebrate Christmas Day at 10 am.

*Bring your family! Wear your pajamas! And celebrate the arrival of our
Lord and King!*

*Hark! There will even be coffee and doughnuts in the sanctuary as well.
You can also stream the service from your home.*

Merry Christmas!

Contact Us

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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 for a full list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions.

Our Mission & Values

Redeemer exists to connect people to Jesus who is bringing wholeness to the city. We believe that the best way for us to follow Jesus in his mission is through:

- Walking in the light of who we truly are because of the ***transforming safety of the gospel***
- Joyfully receiving and being obedient to the ***life-giving authority of scripture***
- Coming wholeheartedly and attentively to our Father through ***thoughtful, expectant worship***
- Being daring and sincere with one another, seeking ***meaningful relationships***
- Bringing all that we have into every sphere of our lives, ***creating beauty where we are***
- Being ready at each moment with compassion and boldness, to step into ***respectful evangelism***
- Praying and following the leading of the Holy Spirit, remaining in our ***desperate dependence on Jesus***

Contact Us

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

Classes
10:00 a.m.

