



CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

*Celebrant: Surely the Lord is coming soon,
People: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!*

*Celebrant: Almighty God to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by
the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

*Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the
second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two
commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.*

Matthew 22:37-40

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*At this time, we mark the Sundays in Advent with the lighting of a new candle. You may
light candles in an Advent wreath at your home at this time as well.*

Light one can-dle for joy; joy that the whole world needs.

Light one can-dle for joy; joy that the Sav-ior will bring.

Leader: Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of joy.

*Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist,
who leapt for joy even while in his mother's womb,
was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Savior and King of the ages.*

People: Blessed be God for ever.

CHILDREN'S FOCUS

PREPARE THE WAY

Verse 1

Prepare the way O Zion
Your Christ is drawing near
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear
Greet One who comes in glory
Foretold in sacred story

Refrain

O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name

Verse 2

He brings God's rule O Zion
He comes from heaven above
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice truth and love
Lift high your praise resounding
For grace and joy abounding

Verse 3

Fling wide your gates O Zion
Your Savior's rule embrace
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place
All lands will bow before Him Their voices will adore Him

Text: Franz Mikael Franzen

Music: Fernando Ortega and Bernard Chadwick

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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

ISAIAH 65:17-25

¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
20 No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
22 They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
23 They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord,
and their descendants with them.
24 Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,"
says the Lord.

The Holy Bible, ESV

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

At the Gospel reading, we stand and the Scripture is read in the midst of the congregation as a way to honor the truth that in Christ God became flesh and dwelt among us.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Come to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Enter my rest. Enter my rest.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

JOHN 1:19-28

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Holy Bible, ESV

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

David Stewart

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

CONFESSION OF SIN

You may kneel or sit during the prayer of confession

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him...

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

As we remember the peace that we have been given with God through his forgiveness, we also remember that He has made us at peace with one another. That is why we "exchange the peace." You may say "The peace of the Lord" to those around you, or just say "Hello."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

In order to support the mission of the church financially, you may send checks to Church of the Redeemer, P.O. Box 130965, St. Paul, MN 55113, or if you wish to give online or set up direct deposit from your bank account, please visit <https://ofitheredeemer.org/give/>

Officiant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,

People: And of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29:11, 14

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

*Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father...
 Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...

...all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Celebrant and People: AMEN.

And now, as our savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray together,

Celebrant and People:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us, once for all upon the cross.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant and People:

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your abundant and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Directions for Communion

All baptized believers in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Communion. However, if you are not able to receive you may remain seated or come forward for a prayer of blessing from one of our ministers. Please indicate your desire for a prayer of blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.

You will be dismissed from each section row-by-row and Communion servers will shift from section to section. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Please extend your hand to receive the bread and return to your seat before consuming.

Distribution of Reserved Sacrament

Reserved sacrament was distributed by our clergy prior to today's service so that we could receive the sacrament together. Reserved sacrament is consecrated elements of the Lord's Supper that are brought to the sick, confined, or others kept away from celebration of Holy Communion. All baptized believers in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive communion. Please [sign up for our weekly email](#) for information about times and locations of distribution.

Prayer Ministry

In respect for the safe gathering guidelines, we are not offering in-person prayer ministry during Eucharist. [Please follow this link to our website](#) to view a list of prayer ministers offering prayer by phone or Zoom. You may also contact Deacon Dawn (dawn@oftheredeemer.org) or another member of our clergy to share personal prayer concerns. Prayer ministry is always private and confidential.

If you are unable to receive Communion today, you may participate in worship with the following prayer:

A Prayer When Unable to Receive Communion

Heavenly Father, I now join my heart and mind with all my brothers and sisters in Holy Mother Church throughout the world who gather at your holy table this day to remember your death and proclaim your resurrection. Accept my soul and body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, through the merits of your dear son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Hasten the day when I may once more draw near with them to receive the most precious sacrament of your body and blood. Amen.

Savior of the Nations, Come

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, Luther's paraphrase of
Veni Redemptor, ascribed to Ambrose, 4th century;
tr. based on that of W. M. Reynolds, 1850

NUN KOMM, 77.77

Melody in *Enchiridion* (Erfurt, 1524)

1. Sav - ior of the na-tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2. From the Fa - ther forth you came, soon re - turn - ing to the same,
3. You, the Fa-ther's on - ly son, have o'er sin the vic - tory won.
4. Bright-ly does your man - ger shine; glo - rious is its light di - vine.

1. Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
2. cap - tive lead - ing death and hell. Let the song of tri-umph swell!
3. Bound-less shall your king-dom be; when shall we its glo - ries see?
4. Let not sin o'er - cloud this light; ev - er be our faith thus bright.

MARY'S SONG (OUR KING OF PEACE)

Verse 1

My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God
My Savior has seen his servant in need
And behold the great things He has done

Verse 2

He scatters the proud and rich
He lifts up the humble and weak
The kings of the earth He casts from their thrones
And the hungry He welcomes to feast

Chorus

Oh behold my Savior has come
And my soul will tell of His praise
For He Who is strong has come to the weak
And at last He will reign as our King of Peace

Verse 3

From now to the end of time
The nations will know me as blest
For God has made new His promise of love
And mercy through Abraham's seed

Wendell Kimbrough
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Celebrant and People:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Please keep social distance of at least six feet as you exit the sanctuary and depart the church. Out of respect for the space and our host congregation, please take a moment to check for papers, bulletins and other items as you leave the sanctuary today.

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We are blessed by your participation with us. If you would like to be contacted by one of our clergy or added to our weekly email communication, please enter your information [using this link](#). Thank you!

A digital copy of today's bulletin with links is available at:
<https://oftheredeemer.org/events/gathered-worship/>

Today's Preacher - David Stewart

David is originally from British Columbia. He is currently Director of Libraries at Bethel University and has studied at Regent College and the University of Western Ontario. David and his wife Liz, our Pastor of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, are the parents of four grown children, and live in Falcon Heights.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, Dec. 24, 4:30pm

Christ's humble entry into the darkness of our world was and is, Good News of Great Joy. Invite your family and friends to join us online this year to celebrate Christ's birth through Pageant, Song and Sacrament. Watch for connection details.

Christmas Eve Offering

This fall, on recommendation from our race and justice task force, the vestry approved support for a student at [Hope Academy](#). Hope Academy is a private Christ-centered, classical academy founded as an opportunity-equalizer for Minneapolis youth.

One of Hope Academy's five core distinctives is to be affordable to all, therefore partners like our church, cover 90% of the costs for every student to attend. By supporting a student at Hope Academy, Church of the Redeemer helps afford a Minneapolis youth the opportunity to gather for worship, and experience curriculum that is informed by God's word and filled with hope.

An annual sponsorship of \$7,800 supports one student for the entire year. During the service on Christmas Eve we will be taking a special offering designated for our Hope Academy student. We encourage you to prayerfully consider giving in support of our partnership with Hope Academy through this year's Christmas Eve offering.

CELEBRATING ADVENT WITH GENEROSITY

This Advent season, Church of the Redeemer will be gathering donations for Union Gospel Mission (UGM), which serves men, women, and children experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities. We invite you to join in responding to God's generosity toward us, his beloved children, by giving to our brothers and sisters in vulnerable situations. To learn more about the many ways UGM serves our community in the name of Christ, visit their website at www.ugmtc.org.

Below is a suggestion for gathering items to donate each week of

Advent. Due to Covid, Union Gospel Mission is receiving new goods only at this time. **Items of greatest need are marked with an asterisk.** There will be a collection box for donations at our Sunday evening services throughout Advent. Donations can also be dropped off in December at the homes of:

Krista Mahoney (krista.j.milligan@gmail.com, 715-220-5615) Lauderdale
Liz Stewart (liz@oftheredeemer.org, 651-278-6978) Falcon Heights
Sonia Keillor (sonia@oftheredeemer.org, 651-300-2861) Brooklyn Park

Please contact to arrange a socially-distanced drop-off time.

- *Week 1: Hygiene items: *men's razors & shaving cream, travel-size shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush with cover, etc.*
- *Week 2: Outerwear: men's, women's, and children's *boots, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.*
- **Week 3:** Linens: towels, twin bed sheet sets
- **Week 4:** Clothing: men's *underwear and *pants (especially large sizes), winter clothing and shoes for men, women, and children (up to age 10)

NOT ONLY WITH OUR LIPS, BUT IN OUR LIVES

Over the past year, our nation has grieved the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. The public outcry in our community drew attention to the disparate experiences and deep generational sins and wounds of our nation. As a church that seeks to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation, Church of the Redeemer earnestly desires to serve as ambassadors of Christ. [Click here to learn more about the steps Church of the Redeemer is taking](#) to show and share the love of Christ more faithfully in our community. Join us in supporting and deepening these commitments as a local body of Christ!

REFUGEE LIFE MINISTRY

For the next year, Church of the Redeemer has committed to support the Htoo family through a Refugee Life team. This is a great opportunity for service, partnership, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters at St. John's Karen Anglican church, where the Htoos are members. Please contact Kyong Song (kyongmin.song@gmail.com) with questions or if you'd like to participate.

YOUTH OF THE REDEEMER

Youth in 6th-12th Grade meet on Sunday afternoons from 3:00–4:15 at Calvary in a large group/small group format. There is also a Zoom-in option hosted by youth leaders for those not able to meet in person. Be in touch with Caleb or Breana Dahl, Katie Pitchford (6th Graders) or Pete or Caitlyn Talbert (Zoom Group) with questions or encouragements as they lead and develop ministry to and with our youth.

MORNING PRAYER – WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 A.M.

Join us in worship via Zoom on Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. each week.

Morning Prayer follows a brief order of service lasting approximately 30 minutes that includes musical worship, scripture readings, a brief reflection on the day's scripture passage, and prayer. Login information and a downloadable orders of service is available at:

<https://ofthedeemer.org/events/wednesday-worship-prayer/>

PRAYER FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN – FRIDAYS, 12–12:30 P.M.

Join us in prayer via Zoom at noon on Fridays to pray for the next generation of leaders and Christ-followers – the precious ones in our church family, and beyond.

Visit <https://ofthedeemer.org/events/friday-prayer/> to participate.



KidConnect - Gathered

Children in K-3rd and 4th-5th gather every week at Calvary on Sundays from 3:45 - 4:15 for bible engagement and connection with their peers.

Videos of story presentations or lessons are sent out to families each week for children unable to join in person.

K-3rd - Sonia Keillor and Steffie Williams

4th-5th - Sara Bramsen and Liz Stewart

KidConnect - Zoom

Nursery and Preschool children are invited to join [Miss Anna](#) and [Miss Julie](#) from 9:00-9:30 on Sunday mornings during Advent. We'll gather around the advent candles with our friends for stories, songs and lots of movement.

NOTES

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

As of	Actual Giving	Budgeted Giving
December 6, 2020	\$131,269	\$139,479

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Staff

[Rev. Paul Calvin](#) - Rector

[Sonia Keillor](#) - Administrative Assistant

[Rev. Liz Stewart](#) - Deacon

Pastor of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Dr. Edward Combe - Priest

Rev. Joseph Calandra - Priest

Rev. Dawn Lundgren - Deacon

Rev. Jacques Kustritz - Deacon

Ministry Teams

Altar Guild - [Barbara Leafblad](#)

Finance - [Roger Scharf](#)

Website Manager - [Caleb Molstad](#)

Greeting Team - [Steve & Sarah](#)
[Scarborough](#)

Hospitality Team - [Todd Willmarth](#)

Missions Team - [Dawn Lundgren](#)

Music - [Paul Calvin](#)

Prayer Ministry - [Dawn Lundgren](#)

Youth Leadership Team

[Breana Dahl](#)

[Caleb Dahl](#)

[Katie Miller](#)

Children's Leadership Team

[Sara Bramsen](#)

[Sonia Keillor](#)

[Liz Stewart](#)

[Steffie Williams](#)

[Julie Willey](#)

[Anna Wilson](#)

Vestry

Steve Baird

Roger Christensen - Senior Warden

Greta Dvorak

Barbara Leafblad

Molly Riley - Junior Warden

Eric Watkins

Roger Scharf - Treasurer

Church of the Redeemer

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