

January 9, 2022

Reflection

It is commonly said that the Trinity is a mystery. And it certainly is . . . But it is not a mystery veiled in darkness in which we can only grope and guess. It is a mystery in which we are given to understand that we will never know all there is of God . . . It is not a mystery that keeps us in the dark, but a mystery in which we are taken by the hand and gradually led into the light.

— Eugene Peterson

To know the Trinity is to know God, an eternal and personal God of infinite beauty, interest and fascination. The Trinity is a God we can know, and forever grow to know better.

— Michael Reeves

He who denies the Trinity loses his soul;
he who tries to explain the Trinity loses his mind.

— Source Unknown

Use the time before the service as an opportunity to prepare for worship, quiet your heart, and meet with Christ. Feel free to read the reflection quotes to the left. As a courtesy, please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices for the duration of the service.

Why liturgy?

‘Liturgy’ simply means the elements and sequence of the worship. Every church has a liturgy, whether or not it’s stated or talked about. It’s a way of telling a story. Our liturgy tells the true story of God making all things good, the world and humanity turning against Him, and His persistent forgiving love rescuing His people through Jesus Christ, who is making all things new in Himself. Every week our liturgy tells us the good news that God saves sinners and shapes them into a new people for the good of the world.

While some of the ways we worship might be foreign to you, we encourage you to try them on for a while and see if you can’t benefit from them. Written prayers read in unison are meant to work the same way songs do—they give a common voice to our personal devotion as we each meditate on their meaning. Learning liturgy, C.S. Lewis said, is like learning to dance. It’s awkward at first, but after a while you focus not on the individual steps, but on the One you are worshiping.

Our worship begins each week with a **call to worship**. We are gathered here today because God, our Creator, desires to have a relationship with us and has made a way possible for it through His son, Jesus Christ. Whether we realize it or not, He is the one calling us to Himself—today and every day.

Text in **bold** is read together by the entire congregation. Plain text is read by one of the worship service leaders.

Call to Worship | From Deuteronomy 10

The LORD your God is
God of gods and Lord of lords,
the great, the mighty and awesome God.

**He defends the cause of the fatherless
and the widow, and loves the stranger,
giving him food and clothing.**

You shall fear the LORD your God.
You shall serve him and hold fast to him,
and by his name alone you shall swear.

**He is your praise, and he is your God,
who has done for you these great
and awesome things that your eyes have seen.**

Only a Holy God | Song of Invitation

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God

*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God

Words and Music: Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith,
Rich Thompson (2016)

Prayer of Approach

Holy, Holy, Holy | Song of Praise

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim
Falling down before Thee
Who was and is and
Evermore shall be

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy—
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r
In love, in purity

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons
Blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber (1826)

Music: John B. Dykes (1861)

Why do we sing?

As God's people gather for worship, we focus our attention on God and away from ourselves by singing together. We sing praises to God for who He is and what He has done. We sing because it is the best and most complete response that we can utter.

Confession happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. Because sin is so pervasive in our lives, we are called to come before the Father with honesty and transparency, confessing our brokenness and asking for forgiveness and healing through Jesus Christ. **Renewal** is experienced as we acknowledge our need for mercy and celebrate the abundance of God’s grace toward us.

We confess **corporately** to show our unity even in our brokenness.

We confess **individually** in order to own our failings toward God and toward humankind in thought, word and deed.

During **private confession**, ask God to simply lead you to rest in His goodness. What has taken on “saving” power for you? Bring this to God. Offer what rules your heart to God, and resting in Jesus say goodbye to it.

Confession of Sin

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 holy name. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer

Private Confession

Assurance of Grace | Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

The Lord Is My Salvation | Song of Assurance

The grace of God has reached for me
And pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on this solid ground:
The Lord is my salvation

I will not fear when darkness falls
His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun:
The Lord is my salvation

*Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won
The Lord is my salvation*

My hope is hidden in the Lord
He flow'rs each promise of His Word
When winter fades I know spring will come:
The Lord is my salvation

In times of waiting, times of need
When I know loss, when I am weak
I know His grace will renew these days:
The Lord is my salvation

*Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won
The Lord is my salvation*

And when I reach my final day
He will not leave me in the grave
But I will rise, He will call me home:
The Lord is my salvation

*Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love
My debt is paid and the vict'ry won
The Lord is my salvation*

Glory be to God the Father
Glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit
The Lord is our salvation

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Nathan Nockels
and Jonas Myrin (2016)

When we **affirm our faith** together it reminds us that we are part of an ancient and global faith. We join with believers throughout the ages and across the continents in declaring the truth of the gospel and the Christian faith.

We welcome new members into our church family.

Affirmation of Faith | Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I am not my own,
but belong—**

**body and soul,
in life and in death—**

to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head**

without the will of my Father in heaven:

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,

Christ, by his Holy Spirit,

assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready

from now on to live for him.

New Member Reception | Joshua and Angie Culberson

Community Life

Scripture | Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

God speaks to us through the reading of His Word.

Scripture | John 17:20-26

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

God speaks to us through the preaching of His Word.

Sermon | Before the Beginning *Rev. Darrell Brooker*

A sermon is not just teaching for living, it is mainly a time when Christ encounters His people through His Word. The sermon is only one aspect of the total worship experience. A question to ask yourself as you leave the service is not “Did I enjoy the sermon?” but rather “Did it lead me into deeper, heartfelt worship?”—for every sermon should show us Jesus and lead us to worship Him.

The Lord's Supper

Welcome to the Table | Based on Luke 13:29, Romans 8:32

From east and west, north and south, people will come and take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Come then to the joyful feast of the Lord and be transformed.

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!**

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Leader: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Feed on them in your hearts by faith and
with thanksgiving.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of His generous hospitality.

The Eucharist is the definitive action practiced in the Christian community that keeps Jesus Christ before us as the Savior of the world and our Savior, and ourselves as sinners in need of being saved. The Eucharist is the sacramental act that pulls us into actual material participation with Christ (eating and drinking bread and wine) as He gives His very life "for us and for our salvation" . . . The Eucharist puts Jesus in His place: dying on the cross and giving us that sacrificed life. And it puts us in our place: opening our hands and receiving the remission of our sins, which is our salvation.
—Eugene Peterson

Who is invited to take part?

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus who acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbors and confess their need for the grace of Christ to partake of this meal. If you are a Christian and haven't yet been baptized, please talk with one of our pastors; we would be honored to baptize you. We also ask that children wait to partake in the Lord's Supper until they have met with the Elders and professed faith.

What if I am not ready?

If you or your children are not ready to partake in the Lord's Supper, you are invited to come forward and ask for prayer. You may also remain in your seat and use the prayers provided below as you meet with God at this time.

What is the process?

After those who remain seated are served, come forward by rows using the center aisle and return to your seat using the outside aisles. We will wait until all are served to partake of the elements together. Please note we serve wine in communion. If you cannot receive wine, white grape juice is available on the outer rim of the communion trays. A gluten-free option is available on the small

Prayer for those taking communion

Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Trinity Song | Song of Communion

Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy communion, three in one
Holy Father, Son and Spirit
Holy communion, three in one

Come with your peace
With your invitation
Bind us together in holy love
Come with your peace
With your invitation
Bind us together in holy love

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken (2016)

Questions or Prayer

If you have questions concerning the sermon or any part of the service this morning, or would like someone to pray for you, please come to the front immediately after the service today and speak with one of the pastors.

Refreshments

We have coffee and refreshments every Sunday following the service. Please stick around and meet new people, and even learn how our church can become your home.

We Sing Glory (Gloria Patri) | Song of Sending

Glory to you, our Heavenly Father
And to the Son, our Savior and King
We lift up Your name, most Holy Spirit
Forever let Your people sing
Now and forever Your church will sing

*Glory to You from the first to the last
Unto the ages and age, Amen
Alpha Omega, now and forever
World without end, Amen, Amen
World without end, Amen, Amen*

Words and Music: Eric Gilbert (2012)

Benediction | 1 Timothy 6:15-16

To Him who is the blessed and only Sovereign,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no one has ever seen or can see—
to Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord
and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

How Do I Connect at Redeemer?

Give Us Seven | Worship is the heartbeat of our life together. To get to know us better, we ask that you “give us seven.” Join us for seven Sundays over the course of a couple of months. In doing so, you’ll come to learn who we are and what we believe, and experience the mission to which God has called us.

Meet With Us | If you’re interested in meeting with a pastor, we’d love to buy you coffee and get to know you. Getting to know long-time members is another great way to know about us, and to be known.

Join the Community | While worship is the heartbeat of our community, we know that to grow in the Christian faith we must experience the gospel in the context of life with others. To that end, we encourage everyone to join a Community Group where we come together to eat, study, pray, and encourage each other throughout the week.

Serve | God builds his kingdom through his people. Your gifts, talents, and resources are needed at Redeemer, not only to support what God is doing in our midst, but also to ensure that the good news of the gospel is taking shape throughout our community.

Community Groups

Community Groups are places of care and community where we live the Christian life together. Belonging to a Community Group is the best way to truly belong to our church. Contact mike@redeemersr.org.

Online

WiFi Network: Redeemer Guest
Password: redeemer

Children

We value safety, fun, and learning about Jesus for all of our children. We currently provide a nursery (age 0-2) and preschool (age 3-5) in the Faith Lutheran Preschool building. Contact mike@redeemersr.org.

Do You Need Care?

We are seeking to be a church where people feel known and cared for. We’d love to know how we might serve you. Can we pray for you? Do you need spiritual counsel? Do you need financial or physical assistance? Would you like to talk to a pastor? Contact darrell@redeemersr.org.

Giving

Offering Basket: Located in the foyer on the Welcome Table

Mail: Redeemer Presbyterian Church
4930 Newanga Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Online: Visit redeemersr.org or connect directly to our online giving portal using the QR code to the right



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Calendar | January 9-15

Sunday	10:45AM	Worship
Tuesday	6:00PM	Parktrail Community Group
Wednesday	12:00PM	Congregational Prayer (Zoom)
	6:00PM	Central Community Group
	7:15PM	Session Meeting
Thursday	6:45PM	Bennett Valley Community Group
	7:15PM	Eastside Community Group
	7:30PM	Westside Community Group
Saturday	7:30AM	Men's Group

Announcements

Redeemer Kids' New Location

Redeemer's Children's Ministries is now held in the Faith Lutheran Preschool building. The check-in process will remain the same, with the table located at the preschool entrance. If you have any questions, contact Mike.

Christian Formation Class

Christian Formation Classes provide an opportunity to grow deeper in our understanding of the truths and implications of the faith. A new class entitled *Rebellious and Reckless: The Book of Judges* will begin in February. This 11-week study in Judges will examine what happens when the heart is left unchecked and God's people resemble the world. Classes meet Sundays before worship from 9:30-10:30am in Charter Hall. For more information, contact Mike.

Weekly Prayer

Please join us for weekly prayer each Wednesday from 12:00–12:30PM. If you do not receive the Zoom link that is emailed out weekly, contact Mike.

Seen-Years

We are pausing our Seen-Year gatherings for the month of January, due to the current surge of the Omicron variant. Our next Seen-Years gathering will be Thursday, February 3, at 10:00AM for our 2022 planning meeting. Please come to share your ideas. For more information, contact Rick Hall at (707) 528-1382 or rahall4@sonic.net.

Men's BBQ

All men are invited to a BBQ at the church at 6:00PM on Wednesday, February 2. Bring your own meal entrée to BBQ along with a salad or dessert to share and something to drink. For more information, contact Rick Hall (707) 528-1382 or rahall4@sonic.net.

Women's Bible Study

This group is currently on a break and will resume shortly. If you are interested in joining the next study, contact Marie Gillespie at (314) 323-3506 or mlpippenger@att.net.

Weekly Update

If you would like to receive our weekly email update, contact the church office at office@redeemersr.org.

Front cover photograph by Megan Collins

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). If you would like to know more about our denomination, or are moving and need recommendations for churches, please speak to one of our pastors.

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