

## September 18, 2022

### Reflection

I am a spiritual being... After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ.

—Max Lucado

Our minds are mental greenhouses where unlawful thoughts, once planted, are nurtured and watered before being transplanted into the real world of unlawful actions... These actions are savored in the mind long before they are enjoyed in reality. The thought life, then, is our first line of defense in the battle of self-control.

—Jerry Bridges

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 Psalm 113**

Blessed be the name of the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore!

**From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Who is like the LORD our God—  
the one enthroned on high,  
who stoops down to look  
on the heavens and the earth?  
He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap  
to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of His people.  
He gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.

**Blessed be the name of the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore!**

## **10,000 Reasons | Song of Praise**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul  
O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before  
O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman (2011)

## Prayer of Approach

### Good and Gracious King | Song of Adoration

I approach the throne of glory  
Nothing in my hands I bring  
But the promise of acceptance  
From a good and gracious King

I will give to You my burden  
As You give to me Your strength  
Come and fill me with Your Spirit  
As I sing to You this praise

*You deserve the greater glory  
Overcome, I lift my voice  
To the King in need of nothing  
Empty handed I rejoice*

*You deserve the greater glory  
Overcome with joy I sing  
By Your love I am accepted  
You're a good and gracious King*

O what grace that You would see me  
As Your child and as Your friend  
Safe, secure in You forever  
I pour out my praise again

Holy, holy, Lord Almighty  
Good and gracious  
Good and gracious  
Holy, holy, Lord Almighty  
Good and gracious King

Jonny Robinson, James Ferguson, Michael Farren (2016)

### 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 sin and 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.

---

In this quiet moment, ask God to simply lead you to rest in His goodness. Confess what's taken on saving power for you. Turn away from what you think makes you righteous. Cry out for new affections and love for Christ—only these can change you and cause you to walk in newness of life.

## Silent Confession

### God Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51) | Song of Confession

God, be merciful to me  
On Thy grace I rest my plea  
Plenteous in compassion Thou  
Blot out my transgressions now  
Wash me, make me pure within  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin

My transgressions I confess  
Grief and guilt my soul oppress  
I have sinned against Thy grace  
And provoked Thee to Thy face  
I confess Thy judgment just  
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust

Broken, humbled to the dust  
By Thy wrath and judgment just  
Let my contrite heart rejoice  
And in gladness hear Thy voice  
From my sins O hide Thy face  
Blot them out in boundless grace

Gracious God, my heart renew  
Make my spirit right and true  
Cast me not away from Thee  
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me  
Thy salvation's joy impart  
Steadfast make my willing heart

Sinners then shall learn from me  
And return, O God, to Thee  
Savior all my guilt remove  
And my tongue shall sing Thy love  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,  
And my mouth shall praise accord

Christopher Miner (1997)

## **Assurance of Grace | 1 John 2:1–2**

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## **Before the Throne of God Above | Song of Assurance**

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there! the Risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ, my Savior and my God  
With Christ, my Savior and my God

Words: Charitie L. Bancroft (1863)  
Music: Vikki Cook (1997)

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.

## **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.**

## Community Life

### **Announcements at a Glance**

*See page 15 for full details.*

- **Youth BBQ** Today
- **Bridges Equipping Class** September 22
- **Bridges Fundraising Banquet** September 23

God speaks to us through the reading of His Word.

## Scripture |

### Galatians 5:22–23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

---

### Galatians 5:16–18

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

### Titus 2:12–1

<sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

## **Sermon | Of the Spirit: Self-Control**

*Rev. Darrell Brooker*

God speaks to us through the preaching of His Word.

---

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 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

---

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 Lord's Supper

### Welcome to the Table

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

**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 our pastor; 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 communion trays. A gluten-free option is also available.

**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.

## **The Goodness of Jesus | Song of Communion**

Come you weary heart now to Jesus  
Come you anxious soul now and see  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

*Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus  
Satisfied, He is all that I need  
May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days  
In the goodness of Jesus*

Come find what this world cannot offer  
Come and find your joy here complete  
Taste the living water, never thirst again  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Come and find your hope now in Jesus  
He is all He said He would be  
Grace is overflowing from the Savior's heart  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Fiona Aghajanian, Harrison Druery, Michael Farren,  
Jaywan Maxwell, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson (2018)

## **Jesus, with They Church Abide | Song of Sending**

*Oft in sorrow, oft in woe  
Onward Christians, onward go*

Jesus, with Thy church abide  
Be her Savior, Lord, and Guide  
While on earth her faith is tried  
We beseech Thee, hear us  
We beseech Thee, hear us

Keep her life and doctrine pure  
Grant her patience to endure  
Trusting in Thy promise sure  
We beseech Thee, hear us  
We beseech Thee, hear us

May she one in mission be  
One in truth and charity  
Bringing all to faith in Thee  
We beseech Thee, hear us  
We beseech Thee, hear us

May she guide the poor and blind  
Seek the lost until she find  
And the brokenhearted bind  
We beseech Thee, hear us  
We beseech Thee, hear us

May she holy triumphs win  
Overthrow the host of sin  
Gather all the nations in  
We beseech Thee, hear us  
We beseech Thee, hear us

*Oft in sorrow, oft in woe  
Onward Christians, onward go*

Words: Thomas Pollack (1871)

Music: Christopher Miner (1997)

## **Benediction** | 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

### **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 our pastor.

### **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.

## 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 our pastor, he’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 [darrell@redeemersr.org](mailto:darrell@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 2-5) in the Faith Lutheran Preschool building. Contact [children@redeemersr.org](mailto:children@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](mailto: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](http://redeemersr.org) or connect directly to our online giving portal using the QR code to the right



## Staff

**Darrell Brooker** | Pastor  
(707) 318-6605  
[darrell@redeemersr.org](mailto:darrell@redeemersr.org)

**Matt Morales** | Director of Music  
(707) 484-2200  
[matt@redeemersr.org](mailto:matt@redeemersr.org)

**Janene Gilmartin** | Office  
(707) 539-9794  
[janene@redeemersr.org](mailto:janene@redeemersr.org)

## Calendar | September 18–24

<b>Sunday</b>	10:45AM	<b>Worship</b>
	5:00PM	<b>Youth BBQ</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM	<b>Women’s Bible Study</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	6:00PM	<b>Bridges Equipping Class</b>
	7:00PM	<b>Eastside Community Group</b>
	7:30PM	<b>Westside Community Group</b>
<b>Friday</b>	6:00PM	<b>Bridges Fall Banquet</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	7:30AM	<b>Men’s Group</b>

## Announcements

### Youth BBQ!

Junior High and High School students are invited this evening at 5:00PM to the Aharonian’s (3303 Thorn Rd, Sebastopol) for a time of fellowship, board games, and BBQ.

### Intro to Redeemer Class

Are you interested in membership at Redeemer or a better understanding of who we are as a church? We are offering an *Intro to Redeemer* class on Sunday, October 16, from 12:30–2:30PM. This class will review our core values, church distinctives, and explore what membership entails. Lunch will be provided. If interested, contact Darrell.

### Women’s Fall Bible Study

A study of John will begin this Tuesday, September 20, at 10:00AM. Marie Gillespie will host this at her home (870 Hardstone Court). The Crossway study guide will be used, so please contact Marie (314-323-3506) if you would like to have a book ordered for you.

### Bridges Equipping Class: Making a Case for Life

Bridges Pregnancy and Care Center is hosting an event to equip on Thursday, September 22, from 6:00-9:00PM at Redemption Hill Church (2100 Petaluma Hill Rd). Dr. Marc Newman will lead this training to equip you to speak confidently and clearly to your peers, family, and friends about God’s view of unborn life. You must register for this event in order to attend by going to [www.speakerforlife.com](http://www.speakerforlife.com) and clicking on Events. This seminar is suitable for 13 and up. Space is limited, so please register now. For more information, please contact Kim Farrell at 707-483-6778.

### **Bridges Fall Banquet**

The Bridge to Life Banquet will be held on Friday, September 23, at 6:00PM at the Friedman Event Center (4676 Mayette Ave). Our Mercy Team is sponsoring a table at the banquet, which is a great opportunity to learn more about the service and care that Bridges Pregnancy Clinic and Care Center offers to our community, especially during this unprecedented time and the current cultural climate. To learn more about the event or reserve your seat for the dinner, please contact Kim Farrell at 707-483-6778 or Angie Culberson at 916-743-5314.

### **Meal Ministry**

The meal ministry at Redeemer is a practical, loving way we can support each other by providing meals to those experiencing a new or difficult situation, such as after surgery, birth, or loss in the family. If you have a desire to provide a meal to someone and are not yet on the e-mail list, please contact Tami Soler (tamisol28@gmail.com) or Anne-Marie Fassler (am.fassler@gmail.com) with your contact information or any questions. Also, if your circumstances have changed and you are no longer able to serve in this ministry, let us know so we can update our contact list. Thank you!

### **Volunteer on Sunday**

One of the best ways to get connected is to have a part to play by joining our team of volunteers who serve on a Sunday morning. There's opportunity to help with set up, greeting, hospitality, audio/visual, children's ministry and more. If you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

### **Community Groups**

Kids are back in school and Fall will soon be upon us, and that means Community Groups are starting back up! If you would like to join a Community Group for the first time, please contact Darrell.

### **Weekly Update**

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

Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version 2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Most historic hymns are public domain. All other songs are printed under Redeemer Presbyterian Church's CCLI License #2319449.