

**November 20, 2022**

## Reflection

The great boon of repression is that it makes it possible to live decisively in an overwhelmingly miraculous and incomprehensible world, a world so full of beauty, majesty, and terror that if animals perceived it all they would be paralyzed to act . . . Therefore in normal times we move about actually without ever believing in our own death, as if we fully believed in our own corporeal immortality. We are intent on mastering death . . . A man will say, of course, that he knows he will die some day, but he does not really care. He is having a good time with living, and he does not think about death and does not care to bother about it—but this is a purely intellectual, verbal admission. The affect of fear is repressed.

Man must always imagine and believe in a “second” reality or a better world than the one that is given him by nature.

— Ernest Becker, *The Denial of Death*

If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, like Shakespeare wrote poetry, like Beethoven composed music; sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, “Here lived a great street sweeper, who swept his job well.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

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### 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.

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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 9

I will praise You, O LORD, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all Your wonders.  
I will be glad and rejoice in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

**For the LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
Those who know Your name will trust in You,  
for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You.**

Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion;  
proclaim among the nations what He has done.

## Praise to the Lord (Joyful, Joyful) | Song of Praise

Praise to the Lord  
The Almighty, the King of creation  
O my soul praise Him, for He is your health and salvation  
Come all who hear, now to His temple draw near  
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord  
Above all things so wondrously reigning  
Sheltering you under His wings and so gently sustaining  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord  
Who will prosper your work and defend you  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriends you

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee  
Op'ning to the sun above*

Praise to the Lord  
O let all that is in me adore Him  
All that has life and breath come now with praises before Him  
Let the 'Amen' sound from His people again  
Gladly forever adore Him

Joachim Neander (1680) and Henry Van Dyke (1907),  
Shane Barnard and Shane Everett (2019)

## Prayer of Approach

### My Soul Finds Rest (Psalm 62) |

#### Song of Praise

My soul finds rest in God alone  
My Rock and my Salvation  
A fortress strong against my foes  
And I will not be shaken  
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse  
And lies like arrows pierce me  
I'll fix my heart on righteousness  
I'll look to Him who hears me

*O praise Him, hallelujah  
My Delight and my Reward  
Everlasting, never failing  
My Redeemer, my God*

Find rest, my soul, in God alone  
Amid the world's temptations  
When evil seeks to take a hold  
I'll cling to my salvation  
Though riches come and riches go  
Don't set your heart upon them  
The fields of hope in which I sow  
Are harvested in heaven

I'll set my gaze on God alone  
And trust in Him completely  
With every day pour out my soul  
And He will prove His mercy  
Though life is but a fleeting breath  
A sigh too brief to measure  
My King has crushed the curse of death  
And I am His forever

O praise Him, O praise Him  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

Aaron Keyes and Stuart Townend (2007)

#### 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.

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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

## Confession of Sin

**Forgive us our sins, O Lord.  
Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age,  
the sins of our soul and the sins of our body,  
our secret and our whispering sins,  
our presumptuous and our careless sins,  
the sins we have done to please ourselves,  
and the sins we have done to please others.  
Forgive us the sins that we know,  
and the sins that we know not.  
Forgive them, O Lord;  
forgive them all because of Your great grace.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## Private Confession

### Assurance of Grace | Adapted from Revelation 7

People of God, though we have sinned, hear of the future that God has secured for us:

After this I looked, and behold, a multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice,

“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

## **Let the Nations Be Glad |** **Song of Assurance**

Let the glory of the Lord forever be our joy  
May redemption be the theme of our song  
For by grace we have been saved  
And by grace we shall proclaim  
To the corners of the earth that Christ has come

*Let the nations be glad, let the people rejoice  
For salvation belongs to our God  
Let the whole earth be filled with the praises of the Lord  
For salvation belongs to our God  
Let the nations be glad*

Through the ages gone before  
Through the trial and the sword  
Many saints and martyrs conquered though they died  
Still we're holding out the cross  
Crossing oceans, suffering loss  
Shall endure all things to win the crown of life  
As Your holy church goes forth in the Holy Spirit's power  
With the glories of the Gospel to exclaim  
Now we pray Your kingdom come  
And we pray Your will be done  
For the honor and the glory of Your name

Matt Boswell and Matt Pappa (2010)

## Missions Emphasis

“We must be global Christians with a global vision because we serve a global God.”  
— John Stott

As a church, we set aside the month of November to focus beyond the immediacy of our own local context to the work that God is doing throughout this world for the advancement of His kingdom and the gathering of a people for Himself from every nation, tongue, tribe, and people group. It is also a time for us to renew our commitment to and support of our ministry partners serving in foreign and cross-cultural contexts.

## Community Life

### **Announcements at a Glance**

*See page 15 for full details.*

- **RGM Great Thanksgiving Banquet** November 23
- **Christmas Party** December 11
- **Seen-Years** December 15

God speaks to us through the reading of His Word.

## Scripture | Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

<sup>3</sup> You return man to dust  
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup> You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

<sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

<sup>7</sup> For we are brought to an end by your anger;  
by your wrath we are dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

<sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup> The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of your anger,  
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

<sup>13</sup> Return, O Lord! How long?  
Have pity on your servants!

<sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup> Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

<sup>16</sup> Let your work be shown to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands upon us;  
yes, establish the work of our hands!

## **Sermon | Finding Meaning in the Face of Our Mortality**

*Dr. Tim Christenson*

God speaks to us through the preaching of His Word.

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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

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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.

## **Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God | Song of Communion**

Holy Spirit, living breath of God  
Breathe new life into my willing soul  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
Come renew my heart and make me whole  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me  
Give me faith for what I cannot see  
Give me passion for Your purity  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit, come abide within  
May Your joy be seen in all I do—  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude  
Kindness to the greatest and the least  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace  
Turn my strivings into works of grace  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth  
Giving life to all that God has made  
Show Your power once again on earth  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ  
Will be clear for all the world to see

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend (2006)

## On Jordan's Stormy Banks | Song of Sending

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand  
And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land  
Where my possessions lie

All o'er those wide extended plains  
Shines one eternal day  
There God the Son forever reigns  
And scatters night away

*I am bound (I am bound)*  
*I am bound (I am bound)*  
*I am bound for the promised land*  
*I am bound (I am bound)*  
*I am bound (I am bound)*  
*I am bound for the promised land*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath  
Can reach that healthful shore  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death  
Are felt and feared no more

When shall I reach that happy place  
And be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face  
And in His bosom rest?

Samuel Stennett (1787), Christopher Miner (1997)

## Benediction | Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

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## Calendar | November 20-26

<b>Sunday</b>	10:45AM	<b>Worship</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM	<b>Women's Bible Study</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	11:00AM	<b>RGM Great Thanksgiving Banquet</b>
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	7:30AM	<b>Men's Group</b>

## Announcements

### RGM Great Thanksgiving Banquet

Redwood Gospel Mission's Great Thanksgiving Banquet is this Wednesday, November 23, at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds from 11:00AM-6:30PM. They expect to feed 4,000 guests that day. If you would like to volunteer for the banquet login to [www.srmission.org](http://www.srmission.org) to sign up. There are also various needs previous to that day with many ways to volunteer.

### Seen-Years

The Seen-Years will have a Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 15, from 11:00AM-12:30PM. A light lunch of sandwiches and salad will be provided, please bring your favorite Christmas dessert to share. We will hear from the quartet *Four For His Glory* and will hold a Christmas Season Hymn singalong. All are encouraged to bring a friend to this holiday event. Contact Rick Hall at 707-528-1382 or [rahall4@sonic.net](mailto:rahall4@sonic.net) for more information.

### Christmas Party

Please reserve the evening of December 11 for Redeemer's Christmas party.

### 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.

### 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.

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