

January 15, 2023

Reflection

One of the things that's been freshly apparent to me is quite how quick people are in the Gospels to try and act like they figured Jesus out and quite how resistant He is to that. It seems in the Gospels you can only actually see who Jesus is if you come basically on your knees. If you're standing up, trying to analyze Him or own Him in that modern sense of catching Him out or thinking that you can make Him fit into an existing paradigm you already have, it's just not going to work. I think we experience some of that today.

— Rebecca McLaughlin

To the unbeliever, Christ is nothing. But to the Believer, Christ is everything. To the unbeliever, a mere opinion about Christ is everything. To the true Believer, the saving knowledge of Christ has covered up all mere opinions concerning Him. He knows Christ, and lives in Him, and Christ also lives in him.

— Charles Spurgeon

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**. God is the one who gathers us into His presence and has made the way for us to have this relationship by Jesus His Son.

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 89

Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around Him?

Who is like You, LORD God Almighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and Your faithfulness surrounds You.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship,
who walk in the light of Your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in Your name all day long.

They celebrate Your righteousness.

Behold Our God | Song of Acclaim

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

*Behold our God
Seated on His throne
Come, let us adore Him
Behold our King
Nothing can compare
Come, let us adore Him*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

*You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)*

Meghan Baird, Jonathan Baird,
Stephen Altrogge, Ryan Baird (2011)

Prayer of Approach

Holy, Holy, Holy | Song of Adoration

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 power
Love and 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!

Reginald Heber (1826)
John B. Dykes (1861)

Why do we sing?

We sing when we gather together to praise God for who He is and what He has done. We focus our attention towards Him and away from ourselves, rather than any sort of performance. Our singing with heart, mind, and voice is a whole-person response to Him.

Confession happens when we recognize the pervasiveness of sin in every aspect of our lives. We come before God with humility and honesty in our sinfulness, asking Him to show mercy upon us to heal our broken conditions and change our sinful patterns.

We confess **corporately** in unity, recognizing we are all sinners in need of grace.

We confess **individually** as we lay our own personal sins at the foot of the cross.

God gives His **assurance of grace** to all who trust in Jesus and repent of their sins. This is His word which declares to us that our sins are forgiven in Jesus alone, and is a moment worthy of rejoicing.

Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, we come before You as a sinful people. We confess that we often refuse to see our sin for what is—an unholy offense against a holy God. We confess our sins before You now: sins of hardheartedness, unbelief, presumption, and pride; sins of deception, injustice, and untruthfulness in our dealings with others; sins of impurity in thought, word, and deed; sins in private and in our families. These sins alienate us from You and from one another. Father, forgive us. In the recognition of our sins, lift our eyes to Jesus. By Your Spirit, lift our hearts away from despair and to Your joy, which is our strength. Amen.

Adapted from "Sins" in The Valley of Vision

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 Love of God | Songs of Assurance

The love of God is greater far
 Than tongue or pen can ever tell
 It goes beyond the highest star
 And reaches to the lowest hell
 The guilty pair, bowed down with care
 God gave His Son to win
 His erring child He reconciled
 And pardoned from his sin

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
 How measureless and strong!
 It shall forevermore endure
 The saints' and angels' song*

Could we with ink the ocean fill
 And were the skies of parchment made
 Were every stalk on earth a quill
 And every man a scribe by trade
 To write the love of God above
 Would drain the ocean dry
 Nor could the scroll contain the whole
 Though stretched from sky to sky

Frederick Lehman (1917)

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee
 I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow
 May richer, fuller be

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee
 My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
 May brighter, fairer be

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee
 I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
 That morn shall tearless be

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee
 I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
 Life that shall endless be

George Matheson (1882) and Christopher Miner (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 | Based on Romans 8

**We are convinced that nothing
can ever separate us from God's love.
Neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither our fears for today
nor our worries about tomorrow—
not even the powers of hell
can separate us from God's love.
Indeed, nothing in all creation
will ever be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Community Life

Scripture | John 7:1-52

After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ²Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵For not even his brothers believed in him. ⁶Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." ⁹After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

¹⁰ But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. ¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" ¹² And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." ¹³ Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

¹⁴ About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. ¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" ²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities

God speaks to us through **the reading of His Word**, so we pay careful attention to what He says.

really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." ²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." ³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. ³³ Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." ³⁵ The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" ⁴⁷ The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" ⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

Sermon | The Divider

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.

Sermon Series | The Gospel of John

When John wrote his account of Jesus, he was very intentional about contextualizing the narrative to a Greek audience. Their culture was saturated with gods and John used metaphors they already knew to help explain who Jesus is and why His claims were so bold. Since we’re living in a 21st-century western culture, we set out to explain some of these cultural metaphors and norms, enabling us to consider Jesus—Consider the claims He makes. Consider what He asks of us. Consider what our response will be to His bold claims.

But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

—John 20:21

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.

Your Will Be Done | Song of Communion

Your will be done, my God and Father
As in heaven, so on earth
My heart is drawn to self-exalting
Help me seek Your kingdom first
As Jesus walked, so I shall walk
Held by Your same unchanging love
Be still my soul
O lift Your voice and pray:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done”

How in that garden He persisted
I may never fully know
The fearful weight of true obedience
It was held by Him alone
What wondrous faith, to bear that cross!
To bear my sin, what wondrous love!
My hope was sure
When there my Savior prayed:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done”

When I am lost, when I am broken
In the night of fear and doubt
Still I will trust in my good Father
Yes, to one great King I bow!
As Jesus rose, so I shall rise
In ransomed glory at the throne
My heart restored
With all Your saints I sing:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done”

As we go forth, our God and Father
Lead us daily in the fight
That all the world might see Your glory
And Your Name be lifted high
And in this Name we overcome
For You shall see us safely home
Now as Your church
We lift our voice and pray:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done”

Rich Thompson and Jonny Robinson (2020)

There Is One Gospel | Song of Sending

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there, where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Savior down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Savior, I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine!
For He has promised I, too, will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Savior, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Rich Thompson and Jonny Robinson (2022)

Benediction | Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

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.

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.

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 15-21

Sunday	10:45AM	Worship
Tuesday	10:00AM	Women's Bible Study
	6:00PM	Brush Creek Community Group
	6:00PM	Parktrail Community Group
Wednesday	6:30PM	Marlow Community Group
	6:45PM	Bennett Valley Community Group
Thursday	6:30PM	Rincon Valley Community Group
	7:00PM	Eastside Community Group
	7:30PM	Westside Community Group
Saturday	7:30AM	Men's Group

Announcements

Road to Real Change Banquet

Redeemer is sponsoring a table for the Redwood Gospel Mission's annual banquet on Friday, February 17, from 6:00-8:30PM at the Mary Agatha Furth Center (8400 Old Redwood Hwy, Windsor). The purpose of this event is to introduce those in our community who have a heart for impacting the lives of men and women with life controlling issues. Guests will be introduced to ways to live out their ministry through learning, praying, giving, serving and connecting/relating to those in need. If you would like to attend, please contact the office at office@redeemersr.org.

Community Groups

If you are looking to connect with others at Redeemer, please consider joining one of our community groups. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact Darrell.

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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