

**May 21, 2023**

## Reflection

When Jesus walked the earth, He was not a bouncy, positive-thinker. He was “a man of sorrows” (Isaiah 53:3). And He promised His followers, “In the world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33). Life is hard. The days of darkness will be many. And you know what? That’s hopeful.

When we find ourselves experiencing “weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities” (2 Corinthians 12:10), something strange isn’t happening to us (1 Peter 4:12). It is what we must expect living in a creation subjected to futility (Romans 8:20).

But it was subjected to futility in hope—hope “that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:21). And yes there is deep groaning as we wait for the completion of our redemption (Romans 8:22–23). But it is a hope-infused groaning, full of anticipation for what is coming.

— Jon Bloom

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 worshipping.

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 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.**

## **Ancient of Days | Song of Acclaim**

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall  
There is still one King reigning over all  
So I will not fear for this truth remains:  
That my God is the Ancient of Days

*None above Him, none before Him  
All of time in His hands  
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand  
All the power, all the glory  
I will trust in His name  
For my God is the Ancient of Days*

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul  
He is here with me, I am not alone  
O His love is sure and He knows my name  
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Though I may not see what the future brings  
I will watch and wait for the Savior King  
Then my joy complete standing face to face  
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson,  
Michael Farren, Jesse Reeves (2018)

## Prayer of Approach

### Crown Him | Song of Praise

Crown Him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon His throne  
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity

Crown Him the Lord of life  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die

Crown Him the Lord of love  
Behold His hands and side  
Rich wounds, yet visible above  
In beauty glorified  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight  
But downward bends His wond'ring eye  
At mysteries so bright

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n  
Enthroned in worlds above  
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns  
For He is King of all!

Matthew Bridges (1852), George J Elvey (1868)

### 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.

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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

**Almighty God,**

**You raised Jesus from death to life  
and crowned Him Lord of all.**

**We confess that we have not always bowed before Him  
or acknowledged His rightful rule in our lives as we ought.  
We have too easily gone along with the ways of the world  
and failed to give Him the glory He deserves.**

**Forgive and deliver us yet again from our sin,  
and enable us afresh to live as Your faithful people. 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 Hope

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)

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 | Philippians 2:6-11**

**Though He was in the form of God,  
Jesus did not count equality with God  
a thing to be grasped,  
but emptied Himself,  
by taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.**

**And being found in human form,  
He humbled Himself  
by becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God has highly exalted Him  
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## Missions Prayer

## Community Life

### **Announcements at a Glance**

*See page 15 for full announcement details.*

- **Memorial Day Picnic** May 29
- **Welcome Lunch for Layah** June 4
- **Women's Fellowship** June 10

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

## Scripture | John 16:16-33

<sup>16</sup> “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” <sup>17</sup> So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup> So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”



## Sermon | “Take Heart”

Rev. Darrell Brooker

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.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>-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

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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.

## **Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor | Song of Communion**

Christ the sure and steady Anchor  
In the fury of the storm  
When the winds of doubt blow through me  
And my sails have all been torn  
In the suffering, in the sorrow  
When my sinking hopes are few  
I will hold fast to the Anchor  
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor  
While the tempest rages on  
When temptation claims the battle  
And it seems the night has won  
Deeper still then goes the anchor  
Though I justly stand accused  
I will hold fast to the Anchor  
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor  
Through the floods of unbelief  
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now  
Lift your eyes to Calvary  
This my ballast of assurance  
See His love forever proved  
I will hold fast to the Anchor  
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady Anchor  
As we face the wave of death  
When these trials give way to glory  
As we draw our final breath  
We will cross that great horizon  
Clouds behind and life secured  
And the calm will be the better  
For the storms that we endured

Christ the shore of our salvation  
Ever faithful, ever true  
We will hold fast to the Anchor  
It shall never be removed

Matthew Papa and Matthew Boswell (2014)

## How Firm a Foundation | Song of Sending

How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed  
For I am your God and will still give you aid  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand'

'When through the deep waters I call you to go  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless  
And sanctify to you, your deepest distress'

'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply  
The flame shall not hurt you: I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine'

'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake'

John Rippon (1787), Joseph Funk (1832)

## Benediction | From 2 Thessalonians 3

May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ. May the Lord of peace Himself give you His peace at all times and in every situation. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. 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) across the breezeway from the church sanctuary 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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[janene@redeemersr.org](mailto:janene@redeemersr.org)

## Calendar | May 21-27

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

## Announcements

### Bridges Baby Bottle Blast

Redeemer is partnering with Bridges Pregnancy Care Center for their annual Baby Bottle Blast, which runs through Father's Day. Bridges' mission is to serve the community and those facing pregnancy decisions and to advocate for every conceived baby to have life. Fill a bottle with spare change, cash or check, and return the bottle to Redeemer by June 18. For more information, contact Kim Farrell at [kkjj@farrellfaber.com](mailto:kkjj@farrellfaber.com).

### Memorial Day Picnic

Please join us on Monday, May 29, from 11:00AM-2:00PM for a Memorial Day picnic at the church. Please bring a side, salad or dessert to share. Help is needed with setup, so if you're able to assist please contact Kim Hall at [kim@redeemersr.org](mailto:kim@redeemersr.org) or Angie Culberson at [angiejculberson@gmail.com](mailto:angiejculberson@gmail.com).

### Welcome Lunch for Layah Petropoulos

The ladies of Redeemer are invited to attend a casual lunch to welcome Layah. The lunch will be held on Sunday, June 4, from 1:00-3:00PM at the home of Monica Gallegos (1645 Tecado Drive, enter off Marlow Rd). For more information, contact Monica at 707-536-5199 or [monica@randyg.com](mailto:monica@randyg.com)

### Women's Fellowship

Redeemer women are invited to gather at Sonoma Botanical Garden (12841 Sonoma Hwy, Glen Ellen) on Saturday, June 10, at 10:00AM. This will be a woodland walk on gravel paths with moderate incline. The tour will be self-guided and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. Please pack a lunch. If you are interested in carpooling, meet at the Safeway at Calistoga Rd and Hwy 12 at 9:45AM. There is a \$12 entry fee, or \$10 for those 65 years and older. For more information, contact Tami Soler at 707-849-7028.

### **Fellowship Day at the Giants**

June 24 is Fellowship Day at Oracle Park. If you would like to join a group from Redeemer for the Giants game, contact Kim Hall at [kim@redeemersr.org](mailto:kim@redeemersr.org) or Rick Hall at [rahall4@sonic.net](mailto:rahall4@sonic.net).

### **City Kids Festival**

We can begin preparing for City Kids now by purchasing College Ruled Spiral Notebooks. Our goal is 200 notebooks. The Redwood Gospel Mission purchases the backpacks and we help provide the contents. Please also plan to volunteer on August 5. For more information, contact Candy Hall at [cshall4@sonic.net](mailto:cshall4@sonic.net) or 707-528-1382.

### **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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