

September 17, 2023

Reflection

Grace is free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving.

— B.B. Warfield

Grace is something you can never get but can only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks.

— Frederick Buechner

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 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 Psalm 103

Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, praise His holy name.
Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits.

**Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His love for those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Let all that I am praise the LORD.

Prayer of Approach

Praise to the Lord | Songs of Praise

Praise to the Lord
The Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord
Who ov'r all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings
Yea, so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath
Come now with praises before Him
Let the `Amen´ sound from His people again
Gladly fore´er we adore Him

Joachim Neander (1620)

We Sing Glory (Gloria Patri)

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

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

Eric Gilbert (2012)

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

**O Lord, not a day of my life has passed
that has not proved me guilty in Your sight.
Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart;
praise has often been praiseless sound;
my best services are filthy rags.
Lord Jesus, though my sins rise to heaven,
Your merits soar above them.
Though unrighteousness weighs me down in judgment,
Your righteousness exalts me to Your throne.
All things in me call for my rejection,
all things in You plead my acceptance.
I appeal from the throne of perfect justice
to Your throne of boundless grace.
Grant me assurance that by Your wounds I am healed,
that You have been made sin for me
that I might be righteous in You.
I am guilty but pardoned, lost but saved,
wandering but found, sinning but cleansed.
Keep me always clinging to Your cross,
and flood me every moment with descending grace,
for Your glory and in Your name. Amen.**

Adapted from "The Broken Heart" in *The Valley of Vision*

Private Confession

Assurance of Grace | 1 Corinthians 1:27-31

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

All My Boast Is In Jesus | Song of Assurance

What wonder of wonders, what love is this
That Christ would die for me
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness
This sinner's only plea
O foolish pride, be crucified
The work is finished

*All my boast is in Jesus
All my hope is His love
And I will glory forever
In what the cross has done*

Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
With graces undeserved
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill
Let praises now return
Rise up, my soul, and bless the Lord
Who else is worthy?

O praise the One forever blessed
Him alone my heart adores
And I will boast in nothing less
Than the love of Christ, my Lord

I boast not in riches, in strength, or might
But in the grace of God
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
In plenty or in want
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me

Now I stand in this freedom
Ransomed, clean in His sight
Oh, and I cannot be ashamed for
My boast is Jesus Christ
My boast is Jesus Christ
Forever my boast is Jesus Christ

Bryan Fowler, Matt Papa, Matt Boswell,
Keith Getty (2023)

We give thanks to God and **bring our needs to Him.**

Prayers of the People

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Community Life

Announcements at a Glance

See page 15 for full announcement details.

- **Youth Fall Kick-off** Today
- **Bluegrass Under the Oaks** October 7
- **Matthew Smith Concert** October 27

Scripture | Genesis 25-27

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger."

²⁴ When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." ³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." ² He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, ⁴ and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, ⁷ 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.' ⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. ⁹ Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." ¹¹ But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. ¹² Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing." ¹³ His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me."

¹⁸ So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." ²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. ²⁴ He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." ²⁵ Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son
is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed!

²⁸ May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth
and plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹ Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you,
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. ³¹ He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." ³² His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." ³⁴ As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" ³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." ³⁶ Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

Sermon | Pilfered Blessing

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.

Sermon Series | Genesis

The book of Genesis has sometimes been called the “seed-plot” of the entire Bible. Most of the major themes in the Bible are introduced in “seed” form in Genesis. Along with the fall of humankind, God’s promise and plan of salvation is recorded. The themes of creation, sin, justification, atonement, depravity, wrath, grace, sovereignty, responsibility, and many more are all addressed in this book of origins called Genesis. Our hope is that as we study through the second half of the book of Genesis we’re able to grow in our understanding of God’s sovereignty over the affairs of individual lives and the world as a whole. We will see how men and women (like us) continually make a mess of things and God continually shows He is working that mess toward a sovereign plan that culminates in the person and work of Jesus.

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)

All My Boast Is In Jesus | Song of Sending

What wonder of wonders, what love is this
That Christ would die for me
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness
This sinner's only plea
O foolish pride, be crucified
The work is finished

*All my boast is in Jesus
All my hope is His love
And I will glory forever
In what the cross has done*

Now fully forgiven, my life is filled
With graces undeserved
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill
Let praises now return
Rise up, my soul, and bless the Lord
Who else is worthy?

O praise the One forever blessed
Him alone my heart adores
And I will boast in nothing less
Than the love of Christ, my Lord

I boast not in riches, in strength, or might
But in the grace of God
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ
In plenty or in want
That I may know, that all may see
His pow'r within me

Now I stand in this freedom
Ransomed, clean in His sight
Oh, and I cannot be ashamed for
My boast is Jesus Christ
My boast is Jesus Christ
Forever my boast is Jesus Christ

Bryan Fowler, Matt Papa, Matt Boswell,
Keith Getty (2023)

Benediction | Ephesians 3:17-19

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
may have strength to comprehend with all the
saints what is the breadth and length and height
and depth of the love of Christ, and to know this
love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be
filled with all the fullness of God.

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 one of our pastors.

Refreshments

We have coffee and refreshments each 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 james@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.

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 | September 17-23

Sunday	10:45AM	Worship
	4:00PM	Youth Fall Kick-Off
Tuesday	10:00AM	Women's Bible Study
	6:00PM	Brush Creek Community Group
Wednesday	6:30PM	Marlow Community Group
	6:45PM	Bennett Valley Community Group
Thursday	6:30PM	Rincon Valley Community Group
	7:30PM	Westside Community Group
Friday	6:00PM	Bridges Annual Banquet
Saturday	7:30AM	Men's Group

Announcements

Youth Fall Kick-Off Gathering

All Middle and High School youth are invited to join in our Fall kick-off event today at 4:00PM at the Aharonians home (3303 Thorn Road, Sebastopol). Enjoy fellowship with a BBQ meal and games. For more information, contact James.

Bluegrass Under the Oaks

Join us Saturday, October 7 from 3:00-7:00PM for Bluegrass Under the Oaks! Enjoy great music, wonderful food, and fine fellowship here on our beautiful campus. We are looking for help with set up, clean up, food prep, and canvassing the neighborhood to invite our neighbors. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Angie Culberson or Kim Hall. So grab a lawn chair, BYOB, and come and enjoy a wonderful time.

Matthew Smith Concert

Join us Friday, October 27 for a wonderful evening of music and singing with Matthew Smith of Indelible Grace. Matthew is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter who writes brand new melodies to centuries-old hymn texts, helping guide people into emotionally honest worship. His music has drawn acclaim across denominational lines and is used in churches around the world, including here at Redeemer. Tickets for this special event will be available for purchase after this morning's worship service. *This is the final week before tickets go on sale at other churches in our community. Make sure to get your tickets before they are sold out.*

Hawaii Wildfire Response

The Northern California Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) has five congregations in Hawaii working together to marshal relief to Maui. Although no PCA-owned physical church or residence was lost, many PCA members have family and close connections on Maui so are providentially positioned to offer the most help. Please prayerfully consider sending a financial gift to the Northern California Presbytery, 100% of which will be quickly channeled to the Hawaii congregations as they demonstrate God's love in Maui by bringing care and comfort to this devastated community. The Hawaii congregations will prioritize needs and administer the funds by meeting the most urgent needs first. Contributions can be mailed to: Northern California Presbytery, P.O. Box 333, Rocklin, CA 95677. Checks should be made out to 'Northern California Presbytery' and should have 'Maui' in the memo line. If you prefer to send a financial gift electronically, please contact the church office for information about the online giving portal.

Children's Ministry Volunteers

Redeemer is starting up a children's class for 5-11 year olds this Fall, and we are in need of teachers and helpers who are willing to teach during our worship service on a 5-week rotation. If you would like to find out more information about how you can serve this age group, please contact James or Autymn Condit at 510-846-8205 or children@redeemersr.org.

Meal Ministry

The meal ministry at Redeemer is a practical, loving way we can serve one another. If you have a desire to provide a meal to someone and are not yet on our e-mail list, please contact Tami Soler (tamisoler28@gmail.com) or Anne-Marie Fassler (am.fassler@gmail.com) with your contact information or any questions.

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.

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

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