



To all who are weary and desire rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort, to all who sin and need a Savior, Redeemer City Church opens wide its doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.



December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Introduction

Every year, for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we observe the season of Advent. The word Advent means "a coming or an arrival." Isaiah the prophet described his day as a time of deep darkness and gloom. Yet, he knew it would not be that way forever. God's Rescuer would come! The people were expecting a King on a throne, full of power, with a sword in his fist. But, instead, Isaiah gave a birth announcement: "It's a boy!" A baby... A baby?... Yes. The boy named Jesus. His name means "God saves!" His birth would signal the birth of God's dream for the world. This upside-down way of salvation is the only thing that could turn things right-side-up again." Celebrate with us this Advent the promise of his birth. He remains the hope of the world. "For unto us a child is born; unto us a child is given."

Song for Advent

We prepare our hearts, and bodies for worship by singing about our Savior and anticipating His return.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Advent Theme: Joy

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reminds us of who God is and what He expects from us.

The world is sad. It is a place of exile. We wander east of Eden still. But not forever. "To us a son is given!" The joy and treasure of heaven. Come to earth to taste our sadness, so that we might have everlasting joy... Today we light a candle to celebrate the **joy** of his birth! Births are joyous occasions. This birth most of all. It fills us with an inexpressible joy. Joy that glorifies God. Joy that can waken all the dead things in the world to life.

Advent Reading: Isaiah 9:3, 6-7

While the law cannot justify us or make us righteous; it is a teacher given to lead us to Christ, the fulfiller of the law.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

We pray together, praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Peter 1:8-12

We read God's Word together and are reminded that grace and mercy are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Greeting

In Jesus, we have not only been reconciled to God, we have also been reconciled to one another. Therefore, we greet one another as brothers and sisters.

Song of Praise and Celebration

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done to save us

King of Kings
Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)

Worship Through Giving: Give Online at redeemerwh.org/give

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of this church and the kingdom of God.

Announcements & Kids' Worship Dismissal: 9am

Children through fifth grade are dismissed for kids' worship.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

We again express in prayer our gratitude to God for what he has done and ask him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and the world.

Proclamation of God's Word

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.

Luke 1:39-51a; 56-58; 67-69,76-79 *(see insert)*

Song of Response & Sending

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

O Holy Night

Benediction

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
May the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
Both now and forevermore. Amen.

Season of the Cross: Purple for Advent

The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions—past, present, and future. In Advent, we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming. In Advent, we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan.

Proclamation of God's Word

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm...

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. 57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Pg. 856 (Luke 1:39-51a; 56-58; 67-69,76-79 ESV)

Sermon Series: Unto Us A Son Is Born

Sermon Title: The Joyous Birth

Date: December 20, 2020

I. A COMMUNITY PROJECT

You have to catch joy - like an infection.

Spiritual Discipline: *Community*

II. PUTTING THEOLOGY TO WORK

Theology becoming doxology

Spiritual Discipline: *Behold!*

III. SURPRISE!

Grace magnifies God which magnifies joy

Spiritual Discipline: *Sing*

Announcements

Christmas Eve: This Christmas Eve we will have three candlelight services. Join us at **either 3, 4:30 or 6pm on Friday, December 24.** The same social distancing protocols as Sunday mornings will be in effect. Childcare will be available for children 3 and under. **We will live stream the 4:30pm service.**

Year End Giving: All gifts must be received in the church office, made online or postmarked by **Thursday, December 31** to be included on your 2020 Giving Statement.

Through Stained Glass: Check out our new podcast ***Through Stained Glass***. The first season is called ***How to Disagree Well***. We'll release new episodes on Wednesdays. Visit redeemerwh.org/podcast to find the podcast in your favorite podcasting apps or on the RedeemerWH app.

Get Connected: The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our online newsletter (redeemerwh.org/newsletter) and our mobile app (redeemerwh.org/app).

Online Directory: Redeemer City Church's online directory is provided for Regular Attendees and Members. The great thing about this platform is that you can upload your own photo or edit your profile's information and it automatically syncs with our database. Visit redeemerwh.org/directory to access your profile.

Worship Playlists: Follow our weekly set list on **Spotify** and **Apple Music** so that you can become familiar with the songs that we'll be singing on Sundays. You can find the playlist on the "RedeemerWH" app (above) or at: redeemerwh.org/RCCmusic.



PLEDGED: \$751,789
RECEIVED: \$667,456

Grace Abounding is Redeemer's campaign to raise funds for repairs and maintenance to the existing facility. Campaign information is available at graceabounding.org.

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