

from
humbly
to hallelujah!

December 1, 2024 ~ 10:15am

REDEEMER BY THE SEA ~ "A PLACE TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN"

We are honored to recognize our niche in God's Kingdom work. Here we will faithfully worship and teach in alignment with God's Word and we're a small enough fellowship where you can know and be known by most of the people around you if that's your desire. Here you will be missed if you're gone and prayed for when you have needs. You are welcome to contact the office (kay@redeemerbythesea.org) or Pastor D directly (dhilken@redeemerbythesea.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS: www.RedeemerbytheSea.org

Dec. 6th	9:00am	Decorating the Church
Dec. 7th	9:00am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Dec. 7th	1:00pm	Drop and Shop
Dec. 8th		Angel Tree Gifts Deadline
Dec. 10th	6:00pm	LWM Christmas Party
Dec. 14th		Holy Hackers
Dec. 15th	9:45am	Voter's Meeting
Dec. 20th	5:00pm	Women's Friday Fellowship

WELCOME AND PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Greetings on this first Sunday of Advent! It was said that the transformed Ebenezer Scrooge “knew how to keep Christmas well.” May the same be said of us as we journey along the path from humbug to hallelujah.

This morning we focus specifically on God’s desire to liberate our spirits from any chains we have forged in life that bind us spiritually.

Jesus came to us, became one of us, for the purpose of setting captives free and loosening those chains that bind us.

Today, as we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the prophecy candle, we remember the faith of the prophets who foretold Messiah’s coming and of the people who yearned for that day.

Luke 1:67–79 (NLT) --- ⁶⁷ Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: ⁶⁸ “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people.

⁶⁹ He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, ⁷⁰ just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹ Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. ⁷² He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant— ⁷³ the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. ⁷⁴ We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live. ⁷⁶ “And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. ⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”

May God give to us the understanding, trust, and peace, that Jesus has already accomplished the breaking of any chains we have forged in life.

Let us come now and worship the one who is able to accomplish infinitely more in our lives than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

OPENING SONG

"The Jesus Way"

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

KIDZONE & RISE DISMISSAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reading from Isaiah 53:4-6.

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,

a punishment for his own sins!

⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion,

crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him

the sins of us all.

The second reading is from Galatians 6:7-8.

⁷ Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

MESSAGE

"Breaking Chains Forged in Life"

Pastor D. R. Hilken

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

WORSHIP | GROW | SERVE

OFFERINGS:

Visitors: please consider yourselves our guests and do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. In faithful obedience and joyful response to God's grace in our lives, we humbly and gratefully bring our tithes (a regular first portion percentage of our income) and offerings (gifts over and above our tithes for other kingdom work). You may deposit your envelope, check, or cash in the box next to the exit; give online with your phone using the QR code at right or text "GIVE" to 442-222-2448. All these options are on our website:



www.redeemerbythesea.org/donate/

ANGEL TREE IN THE LOBBY: We are thrilled to share that RBTS be providing \$25 gift cards to children of active-duty Marines at Camp Pendleton. You may: 1) make a check payable to RBTS, pay cash in the church lobby or purchase online and we will pick up a gift card for you. 2) Buy a \$25 gift card on your own from Amazon, Walmart or Target and return it to the church by **Sun. Dec. 8th (The date has been corrected)**. *After you have purchased your gift*, select a handmade Angel Ornament to keep. Questions? Email Stepholivero@san.rr.com. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: On **Fri. Dec. 6th at 9:30am** help decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season. Many helpers are needed, especially to get on ladders. Contact BJ if you can help: bjclahr@cox.net.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST: **Sat. Dec. 7th from 9:00am-10:45am**. Join us for a time of fellowship and men's study. Register online to select a breakfast burrito from Valerie's Tacos.

DROP AND SHOP SERVE TEAM NEEDED: If you are high school-aged and above, willing to give your time to the children at Drop and Shop on **Sat. Dec. 7th** from 12:30-5:30pm, please sign up online or Contact Rhonda: Rhonda@redeemerbythesea.org.

To register your child(ren): Cost is \$25/child (ages 1-9 years old). The hours are from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Space is limited so sign-up today on our website.

LWML CHRISTMAS PARTY: The theme is “A Long Time Ago and A Little Retro” on **Tues. Dec. 10th at 6:00pm**. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer that serves 6-8 to share. Christmas cheer will be provided – including singing carols and a gift exchange (\$20 limit). Invite a friend. Email BJ – **bjclahr@cox.net** to RSVP or with any questions.

HOLY HACKERS: The next golf outing will be on **Sat. Dec. 14th**. We play best ball so all levels of golfers are welcome to join. To play, contact Rhonda – **rhonda@redeemerbythesea.org**.

POINSETTIAS FOR OUR SANCTUARY: Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas by donating a poinsettia. The cost is \$11.00 each and can be purchased under donate on our website. If you would prefer to pay by check, please sign up online, click pay later, and then drop your check into the offering box. Your poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas. Thank you!

VOTER’S MEETING - SUN DEC. 15TH AT 9:45am. Elections for Treasurer and Evangelism Chair. (Fellowship and Education Chairs are also still vacant.) If you are interested in more information about serving in these roles, please email Kim Glassman: – **president@redeemerbythesea.org** or Dan Bitner: – **vicepresident@redeemerbythesea.org**. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and stay informed.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY will be on **Fri. Dec. 20th at 5:30pm**. Women start your weekend out right with Happy Hour and Bible Study with friends from RBTS. Hors’D provided, BYOB. Please RSVP online:

www.redeemerbythesea.org/announcements for more details and the host’s address will be emailed with your confirmation. Hope to see you there!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE: Printed copies of “Come Let Us Adore Him” written by Kari Vo are available for you to pick up in the lobby. This resource is also available online from Lutheran Hour Ministries. **www.lhm.org**.

This week’s flowers have been donated by Suzanne Hughes
to the glory of God!



Breaking Chains Forged in Life

December 1, 2024

He's Making a List and Checking it twice ...

SALE! Inventory Reduction

Personal "HUMBUG" Inventory:

- 1) Our Personal **PAST**
- 2) Unrealistic Expectations
- 3) Overcrowded schedules
- 4) Family _____
- 5) _____: Divorce / Death / never _____ / _____ never married
- 6) Skewed thinking: Christmas is about _____,
instead of being about the _____ of God in Christ.
- 7) Skewed thinking: success in this life

"Bah! Humbug!"

Marley: "I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard;
I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to *you?*"

God is in the **CHANGE** business ... some examples:

Ebenezer Scrooge ~ "Bill W." ~ Zechariah (father of infant son, John, the Baptist)

SPIRITUAL BOLTCUTTERS

1. _____ comes in several forms
2. _____ on "The Christ" this Christmas.
3. _____ some _____ chains
4. _____ pray about & invite someone to join you