

from  
humbūg  
to hallelujah!

December 15, 2024 ~ 8:30am

**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](mailto:kay@redeemerbythesea.org)) or Pastor D directly ([dhilken@redeemerbythesea.org](mailto:dhilken@redeemerbythesea.org)).

**UPCOMING EVENTS: [www.RedeemerbytheSea.org](http://www.RedeemerbytheSea.org)**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>9:45am</b>	<b>Voter's Meeting</b>
<b>Dec. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Women's Friday Fellowship</b>
<b>Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Candlelight Worship</b>
	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Contemporary</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Traditional</b>
<b>Jan. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast</b>



## WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

### "The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76 Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

*(silence for further personal reflection and specific confession)*

Pastor: This Advent season, anticipating the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, your Savior and mine, we have reflected on principles of life illustrated through Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL. But one observation must be made: Ebenezer Scrooge is changed by visions of who he was, what

he is doing to those around him, and what will happen in the world if he continues down that same path. The element that is missing, upon which you and I ultimately stand, is not what we do, but what God the Son has done for us. Yes, our past and our present, truthfully acknowledged, reveals our sin, and God calls us to repent of that sin and trust only in the power of the cross to remove it from our record, so together as His people let us, again, take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. And as you do, know that it is already done. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You for Your plan and thank you for the sacrifice that brings light to the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

#### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

**Philippians 2:1-11 (MSG)**

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

<sup>5-8</sup> Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't

claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

<sup>9-11</sup> Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

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Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 205



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

Reader: The Holy Gospel today comes from Matthew chapter 1.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

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Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together**

is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## MESSAGE HYMN

### "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald Text and tune: Public domain

## MARY TELLS HER STORY

### MESSAGE

### "The Gift Money Cannot Buy"

*Pastor D. R. Hilken*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: *(concluding each petition)* Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

## THE 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.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SHARING GOD'S PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

## AGNUS DEI (*You May Be Seated*)

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION



## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

## "A Communion Hymn for Christmas"



1. Gath - ered 'round Your ta - ble on this ho - ly eve,  
2. Prince of Glo - ry, grac - ing Heav'n ere time be - gan,  
3. Beth - lehem's In - car - na - tion, Cal - v'ry's bit - ter cross,  
4. With pro - found - est won - der we Your bo - dy take—  
5. Christ - mas Babe so ten - der Lamb who bore our blame,



view - ing Beth - lehem's sta - ble we re - joice and grieve. Joy to see You  
now for us em - brac - ing death as Son of Man. By Your birth so  
wrought for us sal - va - tion by Your pain and loss. Now we fall be -  
Laid in man - ger yon - der, bro - ken for our sake; Hushed in ad - o -  
how shall sin - ners ren - der prais - es due Your name? Do Your own good



ly - ing in Your man - ger bed, weep to see You dy - ing  
low - ly, by Your love so true, by Your cross most ho - ly,  
fore You in this ho - ly place, pros - trate we a - dore You  
ra - tion we ap - proach the cup— Beth - lehem's pure ob - la - tion  
plea - sure in the lives we bring; In Your ran - somed trea - sure



in our sin - ful stead. A - - - men.  
Lord, we wor - ship You!  
for Your gift of grace.  
free - ly of - fered up.  
reign for - ev - er King!

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## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Pastor:** We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### “Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

## SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

### “O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion”

From Messiah, by G. F. Handel

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *ESV*. UBP. ARR.  
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# 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 of these options are on our website:



[www.redeemerbythesea.org/donate/](http://www.redeemerbythesea.org/donate/).

**VOTER'S MEETING – TODAY at 9:45am:** Elections for Treasurer, Fellowship, Education and Evangelism Chair. If you are interested in more information about serving in these roles, please contact Kim Glassman, President or Dan Bitner, Vice President.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY** will be on **Fri. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.redeemerbythesea.org/announcements) and the host's address will be emailed with your confirmation. Hope to see you there!

**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!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES  
DECEMBER 24  
3:00PM CONTEMPORARY  
5:00PM TRADITIONAL

# The Gift Money Cannot Buy

December 15, 2024 - Matthew 1:18-25

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from  
humbug to hallelujah!

“a time for finding yourself a year older and not an hour richer”

What money \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ buy (Nieman Marcus)

What makes us \_\_\_\_\_?  
spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

The value of relationships  
is at the heart of the Christmas story

Earthly \_\_\_\_\_

vs

True \_\_\_\_\_

“I hope, that when people see me at church on Christmas,  
they are reminded that Jesus, whose birth we celebrate  
made lame beggars walk and blind men see” --- Tiny Tim

Like the Cratchits, we can say,  
“I will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for those God brings into my life.”

Again, take a personal \_\_\_\_\_