

from
humbug
to hallelujah!

December 22, 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) or Pastor D directly (dhilken@redeemerbythesea.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS: www.RedeemerbytheSea.org

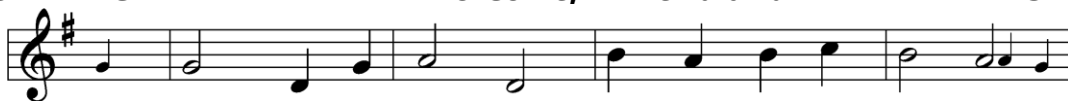
Dec. 24th	3:00pm	Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
	5:00pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Dec. 25th		Church Office will be closed
Jan. 1st		Church Office will be closed
Jan. 4th	9:00am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Jan. 11th	9:00am	Christmas Undecorating
Jan. 11th		Holy Hackers
Jan. 14th	9:30am	LWM – Serving RBTS Preschool Staff & Students

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(silence for further personal reflection and specific confession)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

Pastor: For you who believe and trust that Jesus is God and Savior, through Him and for His sake God has heard our prayer. The Father sent His Son into our world, to die for us and to rise again that we may have new life. As a called and ordained servant of the word, and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

All: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

GREET ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE THE PEACE OF GOD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 1-7 (NLT)

Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

³ You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder.

⁴ For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

⁵ The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-15 (ESV)

Pastor: The Gospel reading today comes from Matthew chapter 2.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and

remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Pastor: 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.



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
 And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt. Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 Text and tune: Public domain

MESSAGE

"Writing a New Ending to Your Story"

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.

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

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

LSB 388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt. Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual Text and tune: Public domain

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Arr. by James Marriott

Acknowledgments – Divine Service, Setting One from LSB. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *ESV*. UBP. ARR. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 CPH

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/

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST: Sat. Jan. 4th from **9:00am -10:45am**. Join us for a time of fellowship and men's study. Register ONLINE to RSVP and select your (optional) breakfast sandwich from Inglorious Bagels.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES On **Sun. Jan 5th** Artis Purins and his wife Inga. will join us at Redeemer by the Sea. They will share what God is doing through Lutheran Hour Ministries in Latvia. Join us for this unique opportunity to hear about outreach in another culture. To learn more, visit www.LHM.org/global.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKE DOWN – Time to take down our Christmas decorations. Plan to come and help - **Sat, Jan. 11th at 9:00am** Remember we need you – short, tall, young and old...to do the job quickly. Write this on your calendar and join us.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION – SERVING OTHERS: On **Jan. 14th following the 9:30am business meeting**, we will serve our own Redeemer by the Sea Preschool's staff and students. Projects include story time, preparing teaching materials and serving staff lunch. "Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descent like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants." Deuteronomy 32:2 (NIV)

Today's altar flowers donated in celebration of
Jo Voertman's 90th birthday from her East Coast family.

See you on Christmas Eve!



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

Writing A New Ending To Your Story

December 22, 2024 - Matthew 2:1-15

from
humbug to hallelujah!

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

Is there _____ to change my future?

Humbug moments

you can't keep them from _____

you can keep them from _____

“Lord, help me to find hallelujah in this humbug situation.”

Four important steps to hope:

- 1) Accepting the truth about life and about ourselves
- 2) Accepting the truth about _____
- 3) Learn to pay attention to God
- 4) Following will demand _____

“(the wise men) they went home another way”

Matthew 2:12

“severe mercy” — C.S. Lewis