

from
humbug
to hallelujah!

December 1, 2024 ~ 8:30 am

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

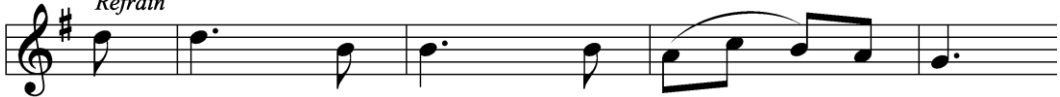


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. 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: God has heard our prayer, and has 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 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.**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Verses

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - - - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *to refrain above*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *to Final Refrain below*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

All: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT)

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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Galatians 6:7-8 (NLT)

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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173

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

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

“Breaking the Chains Forged in Life”

Pastor D. R. Hilken

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Break the Chains I've Forged"

Tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
by Greg Asimakoupoulos

**Break the chains I've forged, dear Father,
By routines of fear and greed.
I am weary of a bondage
As a prisoner of my needs.
Set me free, I pray. Release me.
Break the chains I've forged, I plead.**

**Break the chains I've forged, dear Father,
As I've sought my willful way.
I've become detached from Christmas;
Reds and greens have blurred to gray.
Change my heart, I pray. Renew me.
Break the chains I've forged, today.**

**Break the chains I've forged, dear Father
Through unkind and mindless deeds.
Patterns that I've formed prevent me
From the freedom you've decreed.
Come O God, I pray, and free me.
Break the chains I've forged, I plead.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: *(concluding each petition)* Lord, in Your mercy:
People: hear our prayer.

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 +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to do so.

Pastor: It is our joy and our peace, at all times and in all places to give thanks to you, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We especially thank You for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to bear our sins on the cross, and to carry the burdens of our broken humanity. We look in faith for forgiveness, joy and healing, and in expectation of the fulfillment of your kingdom's presence we join the unending praise of the hosts of heaven and say:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, Lord to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. May we faithfully eat and drink as Jesus commands until that day when all the faithful will be gathered in the new kingdom to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb.

To You alone, Three in One, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: As God's Word proclaims, as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, His rest in the tomb, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His return for the final judgment.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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.

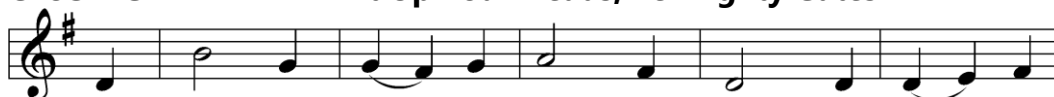
BENEDICTION

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 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913 ext and tune: Public domain

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

arr. by Benjamin M. Culli

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 email 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!

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