

January 3, 2009

For Your Information ...

Guests! We are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. It is our hope that worship is an encouragement to you and that you will have opportunity to return soon. Give us an opportunity to meet you today and introduce ourselves by staying around for coffee in the foyer after the service. Also, please assist us by **filling out the Guest Pad** when it is passed during worship.

Welcome Station: Located in the foyer, our Welcome Station is designed to assist you in understanding the ministry of Redeemer. Please help yourself to the purple guest packets, The Continuing Vision of Redeemer Presbyterian Church document, our newsletter, the Kerygma (pronounced ke-rîg'me), and other materials.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and a member of South Texas Presbytery. For more information about Redeemer Church visit: www.redeemersa.org. For more information about the Presbyterian Church in America visit: www.pcanet.org.

Community Groups: Community Groups are fellowships of twelve to twenty people meeting every other week in homes throughout San Antonio. They are the first place where we hope our people turn for applying the gospel to their lives. To find a Community Group, please contact Brandon Eggar at 930-4480, or visit our website, www.redeemersa.org, under Ministries, then Community Groups, to find information on locations and leaders and fill out the online registration form.

Book Table: The books found here are designed to assist you in understanding the Christian life. If you want to purchase a book, please fill out the envelope with money enclosed. Sermon CDs are also available; simply sign up at the table. Make all checks payable to Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

Sunday Schedule

9:15-9:25 a.m. **Prayer**
9:30-10:55 a.m. **Worship**

Nurseries

Redeemer offers fully staffed nurseries for children ages 3 months to 3 years of age. Redeemer encourages parents to utilize our *Training in the Pews* children's worship time during each service to better prepare your children, ages 3-5, for worship. All nurseries are at the Northeast end of the McAllister Fine Arts Center.

Little Bitty Babies: 3-7 months
The Crawlers: 8-12 months
Cruisers & Climbers: 13-18 months
Younger Toddler: 19-27 months
Older Toddler: 28-36 months
Training the Pews: 3-5 years

Christian Education

Toddler I (age 2)
Toddler II (age 3)
Pre K- K (age 4-5)
Primary I (ages 6-7)
Primary II (ages 8-9)
Junior (ages 10-11)
Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grades)
Sr. High Youth (9th-12th grades)
Pastor's Forum (All ages)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2009

Second Sunday after Christmas

In consideration of other worshippers, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Parents, nurseries are available during the worship service for children ages 3 months to 3 years. Babies and toddlers are also welcome in the auditorium. The balcony is available for nursing mothers; you may enter the balcony through the side door upstairs. The service is broadcast in the lobby area immediately outside the auditorium for the convenience of parents whose children become restless during worship.

Reflection & Preparation

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:18-27

Welcome and Announcements

Mr. Jason Register

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Minister: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

People: And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Minister: Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of the heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

***Hymn of Adoration**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

1. All Hail the Pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let An - gels pros - trate
2. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the
3. Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe on this terr - es - trial
4. O that with yo - nder sa - cred throng we at his feet may

fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him
fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him
fall, to him all ma - je - sty - a - scribe, and crown him
fall; we'll join the e - ver - la - sting song, and crown him

Lord of all; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
Lord of all; hail him who saves you by his grace, and
Lord of all; to him all ma - je - sty - a - scribe, and
Lord of all; we'll join the e - ver - la - sting song, and

crown him Lord of all!
crown him Lord of all!
crown him Lord of all!
crown him Lord of all!

Words by Edward Perronet, John Rippon; Music by Oliver Holden

***Prayer of Invocation**

Mr. Gibbs

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed¹

Minister: Christian, what do you believe?

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell². The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church³, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

¹ Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 6th century.

² By referring to Jesus' descent into hell, the Christian embraces two truths. Firstly, Jesus received the full sentence of hell on behalf of his people while on the cross. Secondly, Jesus experienced the reign of death by remaining in the tomb after the crucifixion.

³ The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographic or language barriers.

***Song of Praise**

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you. (repeat)

Words and Music by Darlene Zschech

Scripture Warning

The Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

Minister: For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."
Galatians 3:10-11

Public Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

People: O Lord, I have a wild heart, and cannot stand before you. I am like a bird before a man. How little I love your truth and ways! I neglect prayer. My mind is a bucket without a bottom, with no spiritual understanding. My conscience is without conviction or contrition, with no sins to acknowledge. My heart is without affection, and full of leaks. Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

Colossians 1:13-14

Minister: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

***Song of Renewal**

God, Be Merciful to Me

God, be merciful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea.
Plenteous in compassion thou, blot out my transgressions now.
Wash me, make me pure within; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against thy grace and provoked thee to thy face.
I confess thy judgment just; speechless, I thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin, thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach thy wisdom to my heart.
Make me pure, thy grace bestow; wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by thy wrath and judgment just.
Let my contrite heart rejoice, and in gladness hear thy voice.
From my sins, O hide thy face; blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew; make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from thee; let thy Spirit dwell in me.
Thy salvation's joy impart; steadfast make my willing heart.
Thy salvation's joy impart; steadfast make my willing heart.

Words from Psalm 51; Music by Christopher Miner

Scripture Reading

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Van Klaveren

Psalm 30
John 16:16-24

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Prayers for Redeemer Church,
San Antonio & the World**

Mr. Gibbs

***The Greeting of Peace**

Children, ages **three through five**, are dismissed through the side door to your right when facing the stage to *TRAINING IN THE PEWS*. After the sermon, parents will meet their children in the back of the auditorium so that the children can join their families for communion.

Minister: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Sermon

Mr. Eggar

“Traveling Home Along the Road of Weeping and Joy”

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A Word About Communion at Redeemer:

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called The Lord’s Supper or The Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving’) is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and singing:

All:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts! The

whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the whole earth is full of His glo - ry, the

whole earth is full of His glo - ry; Ho - ly is the Lord!

Words from Isaiah 6:3; Music by Nolene Prince

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

If seated in the front outer sections, please exit toward the center aisles to partake, returning to your seat by the outer aisles. If seated in the front center section, upon usher's direction starting from back row, exit to the aisle closest to you. Please use the outer aisles to return to your seats. If seated in the back section, upon usher's direction, please exit your row to the left and return to your row from the right. Please use our communion time to sing and/or meditate as communion is being served. Redeemer serves wine for communion. The outer circle of the tray contains grape juice for those desiring it. After partaking, place your cup in the baskets provided on the aisles.

During the distribution of the elements, an elder or pastor of Redeemer is available to pray with you at the rear of the auditorium if you so desire.

Prayers for Those Not Communing

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen. **Prayer of Searching for Truth**

Lord, Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen. **Prayer of Believing on Jesus**

Lord, Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen. **Prayer of Struggling Against Sin**

Songs of Communion

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The musical score is written in a single system with four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The lyrics are arranged in four columns corresponding to the four staves of music.

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast,
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,
on which the Prince of glo - ry died,
save in the death of Christ my God:
sor - row and love flow min - gled down:
that were a pres - ent far too small;
my rich - est gain I count but loss,
all the vain things that charm me most,
did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
love so a - maz - ing so di - vine,
and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words by Isaac Watts; Music by Lowell Mason

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love," who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands. My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied, to look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Bancroft; music by Vikki Cook

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish, her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
Against a foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
'Til with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell...
That they may dwell, that we may dwell with Thee.

Words by Samuel Stone; music by Brian Moss

The Offering

Hymn of Blessing

What Wondrous Love Is This

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what
2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to
God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while
when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and

bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to
mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while
through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!
through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

Words from an American Folk Hymn; Music from The Southern Harmony

***Benediction**

Mr. Gibbs

Minister: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Go in peace.

Postlude

**The Congregation Stands*

*Senior Pastor: Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs
Associate Pastor: Rev. Brandon S. Eggar
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Victor R. Martinez
Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Brent M. Watkins*

*Musicians: Brent Watkins, piano; Jonathan Card, guitar; Zach Ellis, bass;
Song Leaders: Jonathan Card, Jennifer Smith*

(Music printed by permission: CCLI # 2357621)

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REDEEMER Highlights.....January 3, 2010

This Week

Ongoing		Nursery Workers Needed: Redeemer desires to hire several paid workers to serve weekly in our nurseries on Sunday mornings. Please contact Jill Higeey at jillhigeey@gmail.com if you know someone who might be a good fit.
Today		2010 Calendars Available: FREE calendars highlighting the children at Casa Josephina Orphanage in Cusco, Peru are available for pick up on the Book Table and in the Nursery area this Sunday. The calendars are a great way for families at Redeemer to be involved in World Missions and pray for these children.
Today	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party: At Stephanie Woodward's home, 11711 Spring Ridge, 78249. Bring a friend, a snack, appetizer or dessert, and a white elephant gift to exchange! Call Matt Beham for more info, 508-7662.
Wednesday	10:00-11:30 a.m.	Women's Morning Bible Study: At Alamo Heights United Methodist, 825 E. Basse, Rm. S107.
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Young Professionals 1st Wednesday: At the Harrison home, 110 La Jara, 78209 for a night of worship, fellowship, and Bible study. For more info, call 930-4480.
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Play Group: At the Landa Library Playground and Children's Book section. Contact Kristen Eller at robandkristen@hotmail.com or 834-8010 for more info.
Thursday	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Women's Evening Bible Study: At Mary Williams' home, 536 Castano Ave, 78209.
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Pub Night: At the Lion and the Rose at Blanco and 410, 842 NW 410. Contact Marc Hadler, 542-4392, for more info.

Upcoming Events

January 10	11:15 a.m.	Move to Edison High School: Immediately after the morning worship service. If you would like to volunteer to help with the move, please call the church office, 930-4480.
January 12	9:30-10:00 a.m.	Women's Tuesday Prayer: Meet to pray at First Baptist Church downtown in Webb Hall, Rm. 207. Contact Jeannie Martinez at 367-8854 a week in advance if you will need childcare so she can arrange it with FBC.
January 13	7:00 p.m.	Newcomer's Dessert with Tom and Tara: At their home, 219 Arcadia Pl, 78209. Get to know the Gibbs family and more fully Redeemer's vision.
January 14	11:45-1:00 p.m.	Men's Monthly Luncheon: At Panchito's Restaurant, 4100 McCullough Ave, 78212. Contact Larry Rickels, 896-1096 or Brian Casey, 323-7775 for more info. Tom Gibbs will lead the group through Philippians.
January 17	9:30 a.m.	First Sunday to Worship at Edison High School: Edison High School is located at 701 Santa Monica, 78212.

Making Contact

Administrative.....Harriet Peavy, Heather Rudd ,930-4480
Book Table/ Media Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Children's Ministries.....Jill Higey, 930-4480
Clerk of the Session.....Brandon Eggar, 930-4480
Community Life & MembershipBrandon Eggar, 930-4480
Financial (church)..... Bob George, 822- 2016
Local Missions..... Victor Martinez, 930-4480
Men's Ministries.....Jeff Judson, 822-1292; Henry Sauer, 310-6542
Mercy/ Financial Aid..... Wes Bright, 826-3100
Mission, Cultural Engagement & OutreachVictor Martinez, 930-4480
Music Ministry.....Brent Watkins, 785-0912
Pastoral Care.....Tom Gibbs, 930-4480
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF).....Justin Clement, 930-4480
Training in the Pews.....Ralph and Debbie Shay, 488-2561
Usher/ Greeter Coordination.....Wes Bright, 826-3100
Women's Ministries.....Ann Bingham, 930-4503; Tara Gibbs, 930-4974
World Missions.....Elizabeth Bright, 995-3600
Worship/ Event Assistance.....Ken Harrison, 828-8864
Young Professionals Community.....Brandon Eggar, 930-4480
YouthMatthew Beham, 930-4480
Redeemer Prayer Requests.....930-4480, ext. 330

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
3737 Broadway, Suite 300 ~ San Antonio, TX 78209
210-930-4480 ~ fax: 210-930-4481 ~ www.redeemersa.org

Serving Today

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Ken Harrison, Manny Alariz, Bo Hannah, Rob Bondurant, Gordon Zeigler
Greeters: Terry George, Devin & Drew Lammy, Elizabeth & Carter King, Rhonda & Barry Laxton
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Bekah Stolhandske, Marissa Bondurant
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Erick Faul, Jason Higey, Joe Liller
Nursery Greeter: Trisha Hadler
Itty Bitty Babies: Ruth Anderson, Heather Card; *Crawlers:* Jeff & Margaret Judson
Cruisers & Climbers: Sara & John Ames
Younger Toddlers: Jonathan & Deborah Briggs; *Older Toddlers:* Krisanne & Toby Stolhandske
Training in the Pews: Rachel & Greg Chaney; Bernard & Georgianna Hildebrand
Cookies: Linda Zeigler, Jeannie Martinez

Serving Next Week

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Ken Harrison, Jeff Brouillard, Steve Browne, John Browning, Gordon Zeigler
Greeters: Terry George, Becky & Chris McMains, Meredith & Cristian Moza, Cristina & Edward Franssen
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Ann Bingham, Debra Wagner
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Erick Faul, Anna Sharp, Nathan Anderson
Nursery Greeter: Georgianna Hildebrand
Itty Bitty Babies: Mary & Bowman Williams; *Crawlers:* Jim & Lori Dante
Cruisers & Climbers: Jason & Jennifer Smith
Younger Toddlers: Rob & Marissa Bondurant; *Older Toddlers:* Erick & Laura Marion Faul
Training in the Pews: Jason & Jill Higey, Elgin & Carole Wong
Cookies: Lauren Browning, Ann Bingham

Redeemer Staff

Tom Gibbs, Senior Pastor
Brandon Eggar, Associate Pastor
Victor Martinez, Assistant Pastor
Justin Clement, RUF Pastor at Trinity
Brent Watkins, Music Ministries Director
Jill Higey, Children's Ministries Director
Matt Beham, Youth Director
Harriet Peavy, Office Administrator
Heather Rudd, Assistant Administrator

Session

Josh Alley, RE
Brandon Eggar, TE, Clerk
John Fitch, RE
Tom Gibbs, TE, Moderator
Jeff Judson, RE
Jason Register, RE
Bowman Williams, RE

Diaconate

Wes Bright, Chairman
Bob George, Treasurer
Jake Gray
Ken Harrison
Henry Sauer
Jeremy Whitley

“Traveling Home Along the Road of Weeping and Joy”

⁷For thus says the LORD: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ ⁸Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’ ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD.” **Jeremiah 31:7-14**