

December 24, 2006

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 Kerygma, our newsletter pronounced ke-rig-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 small fellowships of six to twelve people meeting every other week in homes, apartments and restaurants throughout San Antonio. They are the first place where we hope our people turn for applying the gospel to their lives. To find out how you can join a community group, please contact the church office at 930-4480 or a community group leader identified on the Making Contact page in the bulletin.

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 appropriate form 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**
9:30-10:45 a.m. **Worship**

Nurseries

Redeemer offers fully staffed nurseries for children ages newborn 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. (See map at **Welcome Station**.)

Infants I: newborn – 9 months

Infants II: 10 – 18 months

Toddlers: 19 months – 3 years

Training the Pews: 3 - 5 years

Christian Education

Toddler I (age 2)

Toddler II (age 3)

Preschool I (age 4)

Preschool II (age 5)

Primary I (ages 6-7)

Primary II (ages 8-9)

Junior (ages 10-11)

Youth (7th-12th grades)

Pastor's Forum (All ages)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2006

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection & Preparation

Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which always is all everywhere,
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,
Lo, faithful virgin, yields Himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb; and though He there
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He will wear,
Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou
Was in His mind, who is thy Son and Brother;
Whom thou conceivest, conceived; yea thou art now
Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's mother;
Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in little room,
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb

"Annunciation" by John Donne

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Prelude

Call to Worship

Mr. Gibbs

Minister: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

People: But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I created Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

Minister: I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

*Hymn of Adoration

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and

earth re - ceive her King; let
 men their songs em - ploy; while
 thorns in - fest the ground; he
 makes the na - tions prove the

ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
 comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 peat the sound ing joy, re - peat the sound ing joy, re
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love, and

heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words by Isaac Watts; Music by George Frederick Handel

***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

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

1. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord: un-
2. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his name: make
3. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might: pow'rs
4. Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word: firm

num - bered bless-ings give my spir - it voice; ten - der to
known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mer - cy
and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by; proud hearts and
is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure. Tell out, my

me the prom - ise of his word; in God my
sure, from age to age the same; his ho - ly
stub - born wills are put to flight, the hun - gry
soul, the great - ness of the Lord to chil - dren's

Sav - ior shall my heart re - jice.
name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
chil - dren and for - ev - er - more.

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music by Walter Greatorex

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Minister: And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Public Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we acknowledge before your holiness that we are poor sinners, born into guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil and unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. Have compassion on us, Father of all mercies, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grow us daily in the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of a life that is pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

1 John 2:1, 2

Minister: My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*Song of Renewal

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a -
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath ered all a - bove, while
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won drous gift is giv'n! So
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast

bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by: yet
mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. O
God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. No
out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day. We

in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the
morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth! And
ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin, where
hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; O

hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.
meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Words by Phillips Brooks; Music by Lewis H. Redner

Lighting of Advent* Wreath—the Shepherds' Candle

The Jeff Judson Family

Psalm 80:1-7

Luke 1:46-55

Reader: We light the fourth candle of Advent, the Shepherds' Candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

All: Thanks be to God.

** Lighting the Advent Wreath originated in Germany in the nineteenth century, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his 'advent' (from the Latin adventus: 'arrival'). The wreath consists of four candles placed in the wreath itself and one candle in the center. One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent. Two are lit the 2nd Sunday, and so on. Each of the candles has special significance: The first is the Prophecy candle; the second is the Bethlehem candle; the third is the Angels' candle; the 4th is the Shepherds' candle; and the center candle is the Christ candle, lit on Christmas Eve.*

**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*.

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. Gibbs

“Out of the Spotlight”

Advent Series: Making Room for Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25

Preparation for Communion

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 to 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. And we praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior, by whom You have sent a new light to shine upon the world, that we who rejoice in that light may be found cleansed from our sins and without fear when He shall come again to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord most high.

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

Starting with the two front outer sections by rows, please form one line on the outer half of each center aisle. Upon approaching the front, please form a line in front of the first row of chairs of each outer section. After the two outer sections have partaken, the front center section should proceed. If seated in the back center section, please exit your row toward the left, form a line in front of the first row of chairs in the back center section, partake from those serving in the center cross-aisle, and then return to your row from the right side. Redeemer serves wine for communion. The center cup and inner circle of the tray contain grape juice for those desiring it. After partaking, place your cup in the baskets provided on the aisles and return to your seat. Please use the remaining time to sing and/or meditate as communion is being served.

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

Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle_

2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of_

3. And through all his won drous child-hood he would hon - or and o

4. And our eyes at last_ shall see him, through his own re deem ing_

5. Not in that poor low - ly_ sta - ble, with the ox - en stand ing_

shed, where a moth - er laid_ her_ ba - by in a
all, and his shel - ter was_ a_ sta - ble, and his
bey, love and watch the low - ly_ maid - en in whose
love; for that child so dear_ and_ gen - tle is our
by, we shall see him, but_ in_ heav - en, set at

man - ger for_ his_ bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was_ a_ stall: with the poor, and mean, and
gen - tle arms_ he_ lay: Chris - tian chil - dren all must
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
God's right hand_ on high; when like stars his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle_ child.
low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior_ ho - ly.
be_ mild, o - be - dient, good_ as_ he.
on_ to the place where he_ is_ gone.
crowned all in white shall wait_ a - round.

Cecil Frances Alexander; Henry J. Gauntlett

O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire



1. O Christ, our hope, our heart's de-sire, re- demp tion's on - ly spring! Cre-
2. How vast the mer - cy and the love which laid our sins on thee, and
3. But now the bands of death are burst, the ran - som has been paid; and
4. O Christ, be thou our last - ing joy, our ev - er - great re-ward! Our



a - tor of the world art thou, its Sav - ior and its King.
led thee to a cru - el death, to set thy peo - ple free.
thou art on thy Fa - ther's throne, in glo - rious robes ar - rayed.
on - ly glo - ry may it be to glo - ry in the Lord.

Words by John Chandler; Music by George Frederick Handel

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall; ox - en
2. Flocks were sleep ing: shep - herds keeping vig - il till the morn - ing new saw the
low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all. Swift are
glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re -
wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the
joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row: Christ the
babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you.

Polish Carol; Traditional Polish Melody

The Offering

Hymn of Blessing

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. God of God, Light of Light;
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;
lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb:
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;
come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O
ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
glo - ry to God in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;
come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text from a Latin Hymn; Music from Cantus Diversi

***Benediction**

Mr. Gibbs

Minister: May the God of peace, who, through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will; and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ.

People: To whom be glory forever and ever. (with great enthusiasm)

Minister: You may go in peace!

Postlude

**The Congregation Stands*

Pastor: Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

RUF Campus Minister: Rev. Justin G. Clement

Musicians: Brent Watkins, piano

Patrick Shay, trumpet

Song Leader: Carrie Alley

(Music printed by permission: CCLI # 2357621)

REDEEMER Highlights.....December 24, 2006

This Week

Today 6:00 p.m. **Service of Lessons and Carols:** Redeemer Presbyterian Church will have this service on Christmas Eve. Please join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

January 10 10-11:30 a.m. **Ladies' Bible Study** will resume meeting at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church, Room W201. Please join us. Call the church office for more info, 930-4480.

January 23 6:30- 7:45 a.m. **Men's Bible Study** will resume. The Study meets at Joseph's bakery at St. Mary's and Mulberry. We are studying the book of James. Call 930-4480 for more info.

February 4 11:30 a.m. **Redeemer's Anniversary Celebration Luncheon** will be held after the worship service at McAllister.

February 6 7 p.m. **Newcomer's Dessert with Tom and Tara** at their home (219 Arcadia Pl., 78209). This informal time is designed to help you get to know the Gibbs and more fully Redeemer's vision.

February 16- 17 **Intro to Redeemer Membership Class:** On Friday evening, February 16, and Saturday morning, February 17, Redeemer will hold its membership class. This course is required for all who wish to join Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

Making Contact

Administrative.....Harriet Peavy; Carri Jobe 930-4480
Book Table/ MediaBrandon Eggar 930-4480
Children’s Ministries.....Krisanne Stolhandske 930-4480
Community Life & Outreach..... Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Financial (church).....Bob George 822- 2016
Local and World Missions.....John Fitch 824-5973
Men’s Ministries.....Jeff Judson 822-1292
Mercy/ Financial Aid.....Jake Gray 884-4729
Music Ministry..... Brent Watkins 512-567-4045
Pastoral Care (Membership, Doctrine, Illness, Counseling).....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.....Jason Register 829-0747
Women’s Ministries.....Mary Williams 930-5915; Heather Card 467-5792
Worship/ Event Assistance.....Ken Harrison 828-8864
Youth Patrick & Aubree Shay 383-0132
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

Infants (9:30): Kierstn Stolhandske
Toddlers (9:30): Bekah Stolhandske, Greg Sanderson
Training in the Pews: Ben and Ann Bingham
Greeters: John and Dianne MacDiarmid, Ricardo and Anita Ramirez,
Bob and Terry George
Worship Set-up/Take Down: Henry Sauer, Ryan O’Leary, Stephen Ribble,
Tyler Jorgensen, John Ames
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Milby Hartwell, Cyndi O’Leary
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Greg Sanderson, Tyler and Valerie Jorgensen
Cookies: Cara McVicar, Neeceia Eggar

Serving Next Week

Infants (9:30): Redeemer Workers
Toddlers (9:30): Annika Stolhandske
Training in the Pews: Matt and Janelle Barsotti
Greeters: Greg and Rachel Chaney, Jason and Jennifer Smith
Worship Set-up/Take Down: Matt Barsotti, Mark Randolph, Tobin Walker,
John Ames
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Mary Williams, Ann Bingham
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Greg Sanderson, Cristian and Meredith Moza
Cookies: Rhonda Laxton, Evie McVicar

Announcements

There will be no Christian Education (CE) this week.

Stewardship Corner

Actual Giving (YTD)	\$585,475
Budgeted Expenses (YTD)	\$635,061
Actual Expenses (YTD)	\$612,639
Actual Ahead (Behind)	(\$ 27,164)

YTD includes all activity for the fiscal year, which begins January 1.

Community Groups

John Ames – 828-6891
and Bowman Williams – 930-5915
and Ralph Shay – 488-2561
Jonathan Card – 467-5792
and Brian Jobe – 826-2204
Brandon Eggar – 930-4480
John Fitch – 824-5973
and Henry Sauer – 832-9892
Tom Gibbs – 930-4974
Charley Hollimon – 829-5760
and Jason Register – 829-0747
Jeff Judson – 822-5901
Clay Miller – 830-438-5218
and Matt Pantsari – 497-1228
Mark Randolph – 822-6057
Jason Smith – 372-9337

Sermon Notes

“Out of the Spotlight”

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. **Matthew 1:18-25**