

December 24, 2011

For Your Information ...

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.

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 Welcome 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 Continuing Vision of Redeemer Presbyterian Church document, our newsletter, the Kerygma (pronounced ke-rîg'me), and other materials.

Pastor's Forum: This is an opportunity to ask the pastor questions regarding the sermon, about Redeemer Presbyterian Church and the PCA, as well as other questions concerning the Christian life.

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. Contact Brandon Eggar, (210) 930-4480, to sign up for a Community Group.

Sunday Schedule

9:15-9:25 a.m. **Prayer**
9:30-10:55 a.m. **Worship**
11:15 a.m. **Christian
Education**

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 in the cafeteria during each service to better prepare your children, ages 3-5, for worship. All nurseries are at the East end of Edison High School. Room numbers are listed below.

1116—Nursing Mothers
1119—Itty Bitty Babies: 3-7 mos.
1119—Crawlers: 8-12 mos.
1113—Cruisers & Climbers: 13-18 mos.
1120—Younger Toddler: 19-27 mos.
1122—Older Toddler: 28– 36 mos.
Cafeteria—Training the Pews: 3-5 yrs.

Christian Education

1122—Toddler I (age 2)
1120—Toddler II (age 3)
1200—Pre K (age 4)
1202—Kindergarten (age 5)
1213—Primary I (ages 6-7)
1215—Elementary (ages 8-10)
1221—Jr. High Youth (6th-8th)
1219—Sr. High Youth (9th-12th)
1217—Adult CE
Cafeteria – Pastor's Forum

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2011

Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve

Reflection & Preparation

“To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, Redeemer opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Victor R. Martinez

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Minister: All God's people — boys and girls, women, men, old and young:

People: Come and worship!

Minister: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

People: Come and worship! Come and worship!

Minister: All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

People: Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

Prayer of Invocation

Mr. Gibbs

Isaiah 62:6-12

Hebrews 1:1-6

Reader: We light the last candle of Advent, the Christ 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 on the outside of the wreath 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.*

***The Carol**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

The Second Lesson:

Psalm 89:1-8

Mrs. Ann Bingham

The Promise of the Davidic Covenant now fulfilled in Christ

***The Carol**

Once in Royal David's City

GAUNTLETT

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Mr. Jim Dent

The Gospel proclaimed by the Prophet Isaiah

***The Carol**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25
The Angel appears to Joseph

Mrs. Gina Walker

***The Carol**

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

ENGLISH MELODY

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy.

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7
The Birth according to Luke

Dr. John Fitch

The Carol

"O Holy Night"

ADOLPHE ADAM
Stacy Van Klaveren, vocals

***The Sixth Lesson**

Luke 2:8-20
The Angels and the Shepherds

Mrs. Rachel Chaney

***The Carol**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

WILLIS

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King;"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

The Prayers

The Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

The Homily

"The Incarnation"

Mr. Gibbs

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7

THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Minister: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

Ushers light their candles from the Christ Candle and proceed into the congregation. The candles are lighted with the usher and the congregation saying to each other as the candles are lighted, "Behold the light of the world!"

Minister: Jesus spoke saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."(John 8:12)

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***The Carols**

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

***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

After extinguishing your candle, please place in the baskets at rear of the sanctuary.

** The Congregation Stands*

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

*Musicians: Brent Watkins, piano;
Alex Beagh, french horn; Tyler Jackson, upright bass;
Stacy Van Klaveren, song leader*

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