

March 14, 2010

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 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**
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- K (age 4-5)
1202—Primary I (ages 6-7)
1213—Primary II (ages 8-9)
1215—Junior (ages 10-11)
1219—Jr. High Youth (6th-8th)
1217—Sr. High Youth (9th-12th)
1221—Adult CE
Auditorium—Pastor's Forum (All ages)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

March 14, 2010

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 service is broadcast in the lobby area immediately outside the auditorium for the convenience of parents whose children become restless during worship.

Reflection and Preparation

“Few of us have looked long enough into ourselves to see that what seems to us and to others as normally attractive is actually as graceless as a scarecrow and even repulsive. It is an easy matter for the physical eye to spot physical deformity and blemishes in others and in oneself. It is not so easy for the eye of the spirit to spot a spiritual dwarf, hunchback, or cripple, although it is easier to see these spiritual deformities in others than in oneself. This X-ray look at others is called “naked truth,” “unvarnished truth.” ...But to spot it in one’s self is not only difficult but painful, and no one wants to take the descending path to that naked, unvarnished truth, with all its unacceptable humiliations. It is much more comfortable to stay on the level of the plain and ordinary, to go on being just plain and ordinary. Yet it is to this path that Lent invites us.” Edna Hong

“Love is the measure by which my life will be assessed. Such a measuring rod strips me of any self-importance. If I am judged on how I love, not on how many books I sell, seminars I give, and people I counsel, then at one level it does not really matter if I write, teach, or counsel. It matters only if I love. That seems so stark and unbending. Why can’t I be judged on what I do well and do every day as a natural course of life? Why can’t I be judged on how I run my business or how often I am involved in ministry activity? Most people do not mind being assessed on a wide variety of tests—including how they love—but it does not seem fair to be assessed on nothing more than the quality of how we have loved others. We want a broader foundation on which to stand.” Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Victor R. Martinez

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Minister: Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

People: Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

Minister: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

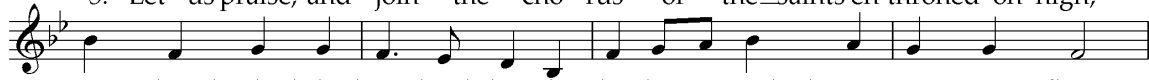
People: All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

***Hymn of Adoration**

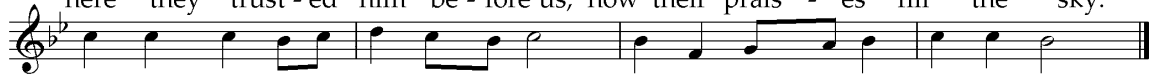
Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder



1. Let us love and sing and won-der, let us_praise the Sav - ior's name!
2. Let us love the Lord who bought us, pit - ied_ us when en - e - mies,
- 3. Let us sing, though fierce temp - ta - tion threat en_ hard to bear us down!
4. Let us won - der; grace and jus - tice join and_point to mer - cy's store;
5. Let us praise, and join the cho - rus of the_saints en throned on high;



He has hushed the law's loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame:
called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us_ ears and gave us eyes:
· For the Lord, our strong sal - va tion, holds in_ view the con qu'ror's crown:
when through grace in Christ our trust is, jus tice_smiles and asks no more:
here they trust - ed him be - fore us, now their prais - es fill the sky:



he has washed us_ with his_blood, he has brought us nigh to God.
he has washed us_ with his_blood, he pre sents_ our souls to God
· he who washed us_ with his_blood soon will bring_ us home to God
he who washed us_ with his_blood has se cured_ our way to God.
"You have washed us_ with your_blood; you are wor - thy, Lamb of God!"

Words by John Newton; Music from the Darmstadt Gesangbuch

***Prayer of Invocation**

Mr. Gibbs

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism[‡], Q/A #1

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

[‡]The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

*Song of Praise

Fairest Lord Jesus

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon light,
4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in the bloom - ing garb of Spring:
and all the twink - ling star - ry host:
Son of God and Son of Man!

Thee will I cher - ish, thee will I hon - or, thou,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er, who
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er than
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now

my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
and for - ev - er - more be thine.

Words from Munster Gesangbuch; Music from Schlesische Volkslieder

Scripture Warning

The Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

Minister: Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:6-11

Public Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Almighty God, we have sinned against you and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your Son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our lives, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thoughts of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Adapted from John Knox's liturgy of 1560

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**

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails and hung Him on that judgment tree.

I will glory in my Redeemer who crushed the power of sin and death.
My only Savior before the holy Judge, the Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer. My life He bought; my love He owns.

I have no longings for another; I'm satisfied in Him alone.

I will glory in my Redeemer; His faithfulness my standing place.
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me, my feet are firm, held by His grace.
My feet are firm, held by His grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer who carries me on eagles' wings.
He crowns my life with lovingkindness; His triumph song I'll ever sing.

I will glory in my Redeemer who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me, it will be paradise; His face forever to behold.
His face forever to behold.

I will glory in my Redeemer who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when He calls me, it will be paradise; His face forever to behold.

His face forever to behold

His face forever to behold.

Words and music by Steve and Vikki Cook

Reception of New Members

Brendan, Julie, Spencer*, and Dylan* Farrell
Michael Flexsenhar
Lacey Itschner[†]
Mary Alice Laxton[†]
Kendall Proctor*
Teresa Rivera[†]

Brian Sporer
Ashley Summers
Duncan, Grace and Eli* Vise
Timothy Watkins[†]
Cindy Williams

[†] Making a Profession of Faith

* Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism

* Non-communing members

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

Mr. Eggar

*The Greeting of Peace

Children, ages **three through five**, are dismissed through the rear door and into the cafeteria for 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. Gibbs

"The More Excellent Way"

Continuing the Series: The Church In the City

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

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 partake of the elements. 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

Upon usher's direction, starting front to back, please exit and form a line in front of your section. Return to your seat using the opposite aisle from which you exited. After partaking, place your cup in the baskets provided on the aisles. Please use our communion time to sing and/or meditate as communion is being served.

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 image shows a musical score for the hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate syllables. The lyrics are as follows:

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

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast.
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.

Dear Name, the Rock on which I build, my Shield and Hiding-Place,
My never-failing Treas'ry filled with boundless stores of grace.

By Thee, my prayers acceptance gain, although with sin defiled;
Satan accuses me in vain, and I am owned a child.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.

Words by John Newton; music by Alexander Reinagle

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!

1. Re deemed, how I love to pro-claim it! Re deemed by the blood of the Lamb; re-
2. Re deemed and so hap-py in Je - sus, no lan - guage my rap-ture can tell; I
3. I think of my bless ed Re-deem-er, I think of him all the day long; I

deemed thro' his in - fi-nite mer - cy, his child, and for - ev - er, I am. Re-
know that the light of his pres-ence with me doth con - tin-ual-ly dwell.
sing, for I can-not be si - lent; his love is the theme of my song.

deemed, re deemed, re deemed by the blood of the Lamb; re -

deemed thro' his in - fi-nite mer-cy, his child, and for-ev-er, I am.

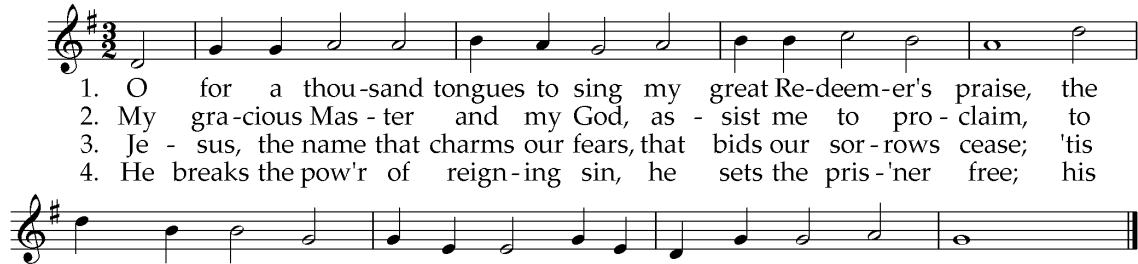
The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the first three lines of lyrics. The second staff continues the lyrics. The third staff features a melodic line with a long note on 'deemed' and a shorter note on 're', followed by a series of eighth notes for 'deemed by the blood of the Lamb; re'. The fourth staff concludes the lyrics with 'deemed thro' his in - fi-nite mer-cy, his child, and for-ev-er, I am.'

Words by Fanny Crosby; Music by A.L. Butler

The Offering

Hymn of Blessing

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim, to
3. Je-sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease; 'tis
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign-ing sin, he sets the pris-'ner free; his
glo-ries of my God and King, the_ tri-umphs of his grace.
spread through all the earth a-broad the_ hon-ors of thy name.
mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis_ life and health and peace.
blood can make the foul-est clean, his_ blood a-vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Lowell Mason

***Benediction**

Mr. Gibbs

Minister: To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God, our Savior, be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and before all ages now and forevermore!

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;
Jessica Watkins, violin; Michael Shay, trombone; Zach Ellis, bass;
Song Leaders: Stacy Van Klaveren*

*(Music printed by permission: CCLI # 2357621)
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REDEEMER Highlights.....March 14, 2010

This Week

Today	11:15 a.m.	"Lord, Teach us to Pray" CE Class: Taught by Brandon Eggar in Rm. 1221.
Tonight	6:00-7:15pm	The Doctrine of the Church Class: At the church office.
Monday	9:45 a.m.	Play Group-Bumper Bowling: Meet at AMF Country lanes, 13307 San Pedro Ave, 78216. Since it is Spring Break, bring the whole family and friends too! Lanes are reserved from 10:00-11:00. Cost will be between \$4.50-\$6.50 per bowler, depending on group size and age of the child. Contact Angel Whitley at 723-2411 to RSVP.
Wednesday	10:00-11:30 a.m.	Women's Morning Bible Study: At Alamo Heights UMC, 825 E. Basse, Rm. S107.
Friday	7:30 p.m.	All Youth Outing to Spurs Game: At the AT&T Center; vs. Golden State. RSVP to Matt Beham this morning during the CE hour if you will attend.

Upcoming Events

April 1	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service: In the auditorium at Edison. Nurseries will be provided.
April 2	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service: In the auditorium at Edison. Nurseries will be provided.

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..... Henry Sauer, 310-6542, John Browning, (713) 560-6211
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: Rob Eller, Carter King, Drew Lammy, Walt Mays, John Ames
Greeters: Jeannie Martinez, Dean & Laura Hobbs, Sam & Beth Hairston, Ned Hodge, Lara Kilgore
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Carole Wong, Elizabeth Conner
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Larry Rickels, Chris & Erin Specia
Nursery Greeter: Georgianna Hildebrand
Itty Bitty Babies: James & Annie Camacho; *Crawlers:* Joe & Carolyn Liller
Cruisers & Climbers: Chris & Laura Sanders
Younger Toddlers: Steve & Carolyn Brown; *Older Toddlers:* Jonathan & Deborah Briggs
Training in the Pews: Jason & Jill Higey, Elgin & Carole Wong
Cookies: Bonnie Hannah, Rachel Manny

Serving Next Week

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Rob Eller, Glen Glass, Cristian Moza, Mark Pomeroy, John Ames
Greeters: Jeannie Martinez, Reeves & Halli Hollimon, Jeff & Sara Brouillard, Ruth Anderson, Kent Harbaugh
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Ginny Glass, Mary Williams
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Larry Rickels, Josh Brack, Jason Higey
Nursery Greeter: Elizabeth Berenguer
Itty Bitty Babies: Darrell & Debra Wagner; *Crawlers:* Jeff & Margaret Judson
Cruisers & Climbers: Jake & Sharla Gray
Younger Toddlers: Tara Gibbs, Milby Hartwell; *Older Toddlers:* David & Tiffany Drewa
Training in the Pews: Will & Carter Greendyke, Justin & Elizabeth Clement
Cookies: Margaret Judson

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

Stewardship Corner

Actual Giving (YTD)	\$141,890
Budgeted Expenses (YTD)	\$192,343
Actual Expenses (YTD)	\$196,475
Actual Ahead (Behind)	(\$ 54,585)

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

“The More Excellent Way”

^{31b} And I will show you a still more excellent way. ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. **1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13**

Main Idea: This chapter is one of the most beloved and most well-known in the entire New Testament. Even so, we still misunderstand the “more excellent way.” Love is neither sentimental affection nor bare toleration, but sacrificial labor on account of the Gospel; it is the Gospel put to work by the Spirit in the community of the Church.

1) No substitutes (1-3)

- **No gift can replace love**
- **Without love all gifts get hijacked by the “self”**

2) No equals (8-13)

- **Lesser graces serve to reach our future glory**
- **Love excels even those graces that remain**

3) The Most Excellent Person

Jn 3:16-17; Rom. 5:8; 8:39; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 2:4; 5:2; 1 Jn. 3:1; 4:7-8, 11-12; Jude 1:21