

March 2, 2008

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**
11:00-12:00 p.m. **Christian
Education**

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)

Pre K- K (age 4-5)

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

March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Reflection & Preparation

"The main thing in religion is the heart. There is no hope for a person whose heart is wrong." J. C. Ryle

"It is necessary that we be placed upon firm ground that does not waver even if the whole world is shaken at its foundation." Emil Brunner

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else." C. S. Lewis

"[Jesus] still provokes interested listeners to ask: What kind of soil am I? He makes his adherents ask, 'Will I fall away, like the withered plant growing on rocky soil? Or will I bear a rich harvest for God and myself?'" Daniel Doriani

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Justin G. Clement

Prelude

In consideration of other worshippers, please program all communication devices to silent mode.

Call to Worship

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Minister: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

People: He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

Minister: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation.

***Hymn of Adoration**

All You That Fear Jehovah's Name

1. All you that fear Je - ho - vah's name,
2. O Lord, your good - ness makes me raise
3. For all the meek you will pro - vide;
4. The Lord's un - fail - ing righ - tieous - ness

his glo - ry tell, his praise pro - claim; you
a - mid your peo - ple songs of praise; be -
they shall be fed and sat - is - fied; all
all gen - er - a - tions shall con - fess; from

chil - dren of his cho - sen race,
fore all them that fear you, now
they that seek the Lord shall live
agé to age shall men be taught

stand in awe be - fore his face,
I wor - ship you and pay my vow,
and nev - er - end - ing prais - es give,
what won - drous works the Lord has wrought,

stand in awe be - fore his face.
I wor - ship you and pay my vow.
and nev - er - end - ing prais - es give.
what won - drous works the Lord has wrought.

Words from Psalm 22:23-26, 31; Music by Frederick M.A. Venua

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***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

*Doxology

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be-
low; al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host, praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly
Ghost; al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

The Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

Minister: Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2: 9, 11, 13

Public Confession:

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Father, we confess that we are satiated and bored: Creation has bored us. Work has bored us. Family has bored us. Friends have bored us. Our homes bore us. Television bores us. Redemption has bored us. Truth has bored us. You have bored us. No generation in history has ever had so much to entertain it. We are jaded and cynical. We think the world is our servant, so we are not thankful when things go well for us, and we are not patient when they do not. We believe every desire should be satisfied, so we are not delighted when they are, and we are not humbled when they are not. We laugh, but do not know joy. We are captivated, but are never really awed. We celebrate, but we do not worship. Have mercy on us, and forgive us. Amaze us with grace—incarnate, blood-stained, resurrected, Messianic grace—the Glory of God in Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon & Comfort

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Minister: Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

***Song of Renewal**

Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine,
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Words by John Stocker; Music by Sandra McCracken

***Scripture Reading**

Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Davidson

Genesis 15:1-6

2 Peter 1:15-21

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. Gibbs

"Seed Among Soils"

Continuing the Series on the Gospel of Matthew: Thy Kingdom Come

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

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. 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:

Sanctus

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

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine: now hear me while I pray,
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me,
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day,
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav - ior, then, in love,

take all my guilt a - way, O let me
O may my love to thee pure, warm, and
wipe sor - row's tears a - way, nor let me
fear and dis - trust re - move; O bear me

from this day be whol - ly thine.
change - less be, a liv - ing fire.
ev - er stray from thee a - side.
safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul.

Words by Ray Palmer; Music by Lowell Mason

Lamb of God

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side,
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.

Chorus: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love, they crucified, they laughed and scorned him as he died,
The humble king they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. (*chorus*)

I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side,
To be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. (*chorus 2x*)

Words and music by Twila Paris

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I fain would take my stand

(Women)

(Men)

The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land.

The shadow in a weary land.

A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way.

A home, a rest, upon the way.

From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see

(Women)

(Men)

The very dying form of One who suffered there for me.

The very dying one for me.

And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess.

And from my heart, I confess.

The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place.

(Women)

(Men)

I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face.

I ask no other than his face.

Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss.

Content to know no gain nor loss.

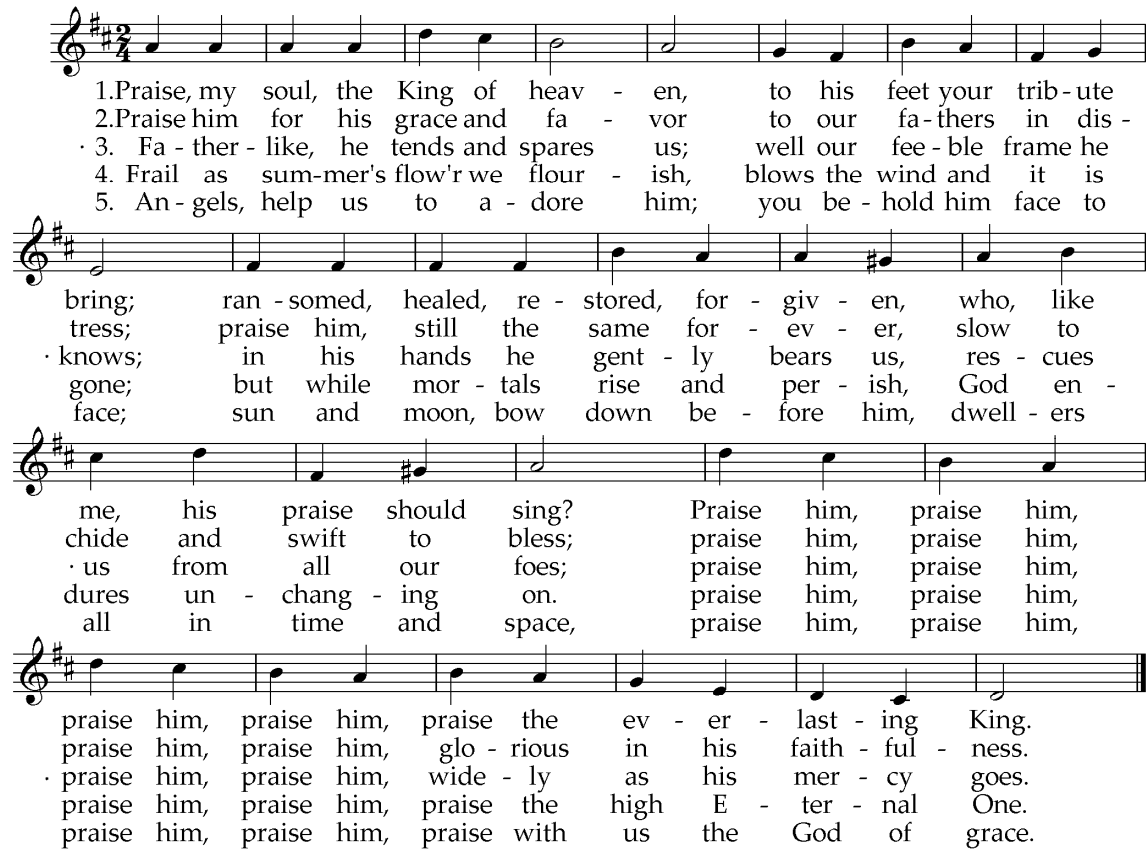
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Words by Elizabeth C. Clephane; Music by Christopher Miner

The Offering

Hymn of Blessing

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis -
3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he
4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to
bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like
tress; praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to
knows; in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues
gone; but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en -
face; sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers
me, his praise should sing? Praise him, praise him,
chide and swift to bless; praise him, praise him,
us from all our foes; praise him, praise him,
dures un - chang - ing on. praise him, praise him,
all in time and space, praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
praise him, praise him, praise the high E - ter - nal One.
praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

Words from Psalm 103; Music by John Goss

The Reception of New Members

Josh Brack
Charlie and Jennifer Hargis

*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*

*Pastor: Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Brandon S. Eggar*

*Musicians: Brent Watkins, piano; Joel Cook, guitar
Zach Ellis, bass; Jeffrey Cigrang, violin; Briley Cigrang, violin
Mary Alice MacDiarmid, violin; Du Anne Hamby, viola
Patrick Shay, trumpet; Michael Shay, trombone
Song Leaders: Joel Cook, Stacy Van Klaveren*

(Music printed by permission: CCLI # 2357621)

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REDEEMER Highlights..... March 2, 2008

This Week

Today	11:10 a.m.	Grace Filled Parenting: A six-week Christian Education Class. Meets in the auditorium.
Today	6- 7:15 p.m.	Doctrine of the Church: This class will be held every Sunday at the Redeemer Office (3737 Broadway, Ste. 300). This class is open to anyone. It is required for those desiring to become a church officer.
Monday	9 p.m.	Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) meets in Trinity University's Side Chapel—An evening of singing, Bible study, and fellowship. Contact Justin Clement (267-7884).
Tuesday	9:30- 11:30 a.m.	Redeemer Park Day: Informal play and fellowship at Brackenridge Park, behind the Witte Museum. Call Elizabeth Clement at 530-0522.
Wednesday	9:45-11:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study on Romans. Every Wednesday at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church (on Basse), Rm. W201. Call 930-4480 for info.
Thursday	7- 8:30 p.m.	Women's Evening Bible Study on Galatians. Every other Thursday at Kitty Inman's home (819 Big Sky Bend, 78216). Call 930-4480 for more info.
Friday and Saturday		Men's Outing on the Guadalupe River: Fellowship and devotionals led by Rev. Victor Martinez. Contact Jeff Judson (748-7100) or Henry Sauer (310-6542).
Saturday	10:45 a.m.-5 p.m.	Youth Outing to Six Flags: Meet at Fiesta Texas. Contact Matt Beham for more info: 930-4480

Upcoming Events

March 20	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service: Please join us for Redeemer's Maundy Thursday Service at McAllister Auditorium. Childcare provided.
March 21	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service: Please join us for Redeemer's Good Friday Service at McAllister Auditorium. Childcare provided.
April 2	7:00 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.

Making Contact

Administrative.....Harriet Peavy; Carri Jobe 930-4480
Book Table/ Media Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Children's Ministries..... Jill Higey 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; Henry Sauer 310-6542
Mercy/ Financial Aid.....Jake Gray 884-4729
Music Ministry..... Brent Watkins 785-0912
Pastoral Care (Membership, Doctrine, Illness, Counseling).....Tom Gibbs 930-4480
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF).....Justin Clement 930-4480
20+ Singles Community.....Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Training in the Pews.....Ralph and Debbie Shay 488-2561
Usher/ Greeter Coordination.....Jason Register 829-0747
Women's Ministries.....Margaret Judson 822-5901; Heather Card 467-5792
Worship/ Event Assistance.....Ken Harrison 828-8864
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

Nursery Greeters: Andy and Kim Scott
Infants (9:30): Trisha Hadler, Beth Hairston
Toddlers (9:30): Jake and Sharla Gray, Leah Ellis
Training in the Pews: Andre and Jessica Kok
Greeters: Glen & Ginny Glass, Rob & Kristen Eller, Jordan McVicar, Rebecca Sharp
Worship Set-up/Take Down: Toby Stolhandske, Jeff Brouillard, Mark Randolph, Charlie Hargis, John Ames
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Evie McVicar, Sara Ames
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Erin Phillips, Jordan McVicar
Cookies: Redeemer Bakers

Serving Next Week

Nursery Greeters: Regan Luthin
Infants (9:30): Monica Herrera, Laura Kaupp
Toddlers (9:30): Don and Connie Hendrix, Rachel Hassan
Training in the Pews: Will and Carter Greendyke
Greeters: Bekah Stolhandske, Aubree Shay, Larry & Brandi Rickels, Michael & Kelly Bozard
Worship Set-up/Take Down: Toby Stolhandske, Steve Brown, Jason Register, Don Hendrix, John Ames
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Liz Goedecke, Heather Shimek
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Erin Phillips, Leah Ellis
Cookies: Redeemer Bakers

Redeemer Staff

Tom Gibbs, Senior Pastor
Brandon Eggar, 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
Carri Jobe, Assistant Administrator

Announcements

Christian Education (CE) will be held after the worship service.

Stewardship Corner

Actual Giving (YTD)	\$108,717
Budgeted Expenses (YTD)	\$128,591
Actual Expenses (YTD)	\$ 92,061
Actual Ahead (Behind)	\$ 16,656

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

Community Groups

John Ames – 828-6891
and Bowman Williams – 930-5915
Jonathan Card – 467-5792
and Josh Alley – 731-0880
and Wes Bright – 826-3100
Brandon Eggar – 930-4480
John Fitch – 824-5973
and Henry Sauer – 832-9892
Tom Gibbs – 930-4974
and Ross Van Klaveren – 653-2717
Charley Hollimon – 829-576
and Jason Register – 829-0747
Jeff Judson – 822-5901
and Larry Rickels – 826-2628
Victor Martinez- 509-7716
Clay Miller – 830-438-5218
and Jerry Hesko – 659-3004
Mark Randolph – 822-6057
Jason Smith – 257-0677
and Jason Higey – 354-7444

Sermon Notes

“Seed Among Soils”

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear." ...¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." **Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23**