

## First Sunday of Christmas



Kids in Nuevo San Jose, Guatemala, April 2006

## December 31, 2023

**Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...**  
*an adventure for life!*

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

## In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.
- Please silence your cell phone.

## WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

*Please be respectful of people who use this time to prepare for worship.*

**Prelude**                      *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*                      arr. Mark Hayes

**Welcome**



Please stand in body or spirit

## Hymn 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that  
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a  
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as  
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -  
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but  
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The  
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:  
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:  
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.  
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

\* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt.  
Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.  
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## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

# Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Please be seated*

### **WE PROCLAIM THE WORD**

**Reading** **Galatians 4:4-7** (The Message, inclusivized)

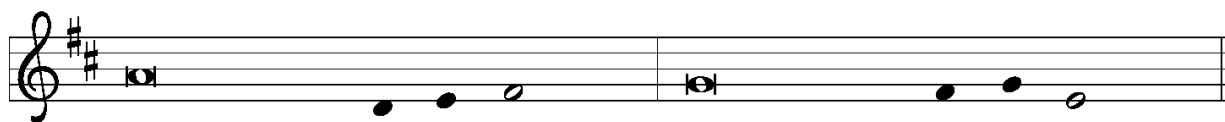
A reading from St. Paul's letter to the early church at Galatia

When the time arrived that was set by God, God sent forth the Only Begotten – born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law to redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as God's own children because God sent into our hearts the Spirit of the Child who calls out "Abba!" Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.

May we open ourselves to what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Amen.**



## Psalm 148



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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Hallelujah! Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God <sup>1</sup> in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heav- <sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
and you waters a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**

Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they <sup>1</sup> were created,  
**who made them stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not <sup>1</sup> pass away.**

Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters <sup>1</sup> and all deeps;  
**fire and hail, <sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- <sup>1</sup> ing God's will;**

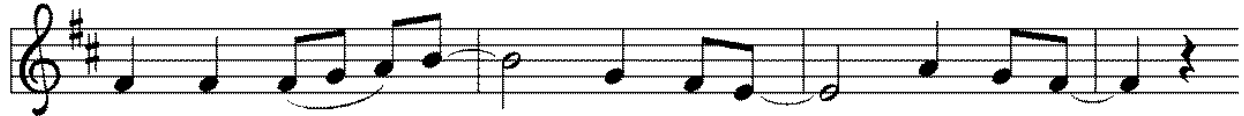
mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;  
**wild beasts <sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and <sup>1</sup> flying birds;**  
sovereigns of the earth <sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers <sup>1</sup> of the world;  
**young <sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
old and <sup>1</sup> young together.**

Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over <sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for  
all <sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

Please stand in body or spirit

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le-lu-ia.

**Gospel** **Luke 2:22-40** (The Message, adapted)  
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

God, you can now release your servant;  
release me in peace as you promised.

With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;  
it's now out in the open for everyone to see:

A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,  
and of glory for your people Israel.

Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words.

Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother,

This child marks both the failure and  
the recovery of many in Israel,

A figure misunderstood and contradicted—  
the pain of a sword-thrust through you—

But the rejection will force honesty,  
as God reveals who they really are.

Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fasting and prayers. At the very time

Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.

When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**Spoken Reflection**

***FLESH AND FAITH***

**Musical Reflection**

***Bells of Bethlehem***

by Eric Hutton (age 12)  
*Kathleen Zwanziger*

**Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## Community Prayers

Let us pray....

After each petition: "Receive our prayer,"

**Your mercy is great.**

**Amen.**

*Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:*

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Pastor Tim Muller, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, John Kennedy's sister and brother-in-law, Becky & Vic Wolfe

The people of Bethel Lutheran Church in Grove City; Redeemer community members Laural and Eric Reinoehl, Gabriel and Cassandra

## Time with the Young People

### Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Members are encouraged to move around the sanctuary to greet each with a hearty handshake or a hug. For those who have special concerns or who do not wish close contact, please offer a sign of blessing to let others know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.*

*We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshiping via livestream before greeting those in the sanctuary.*

## **WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION**

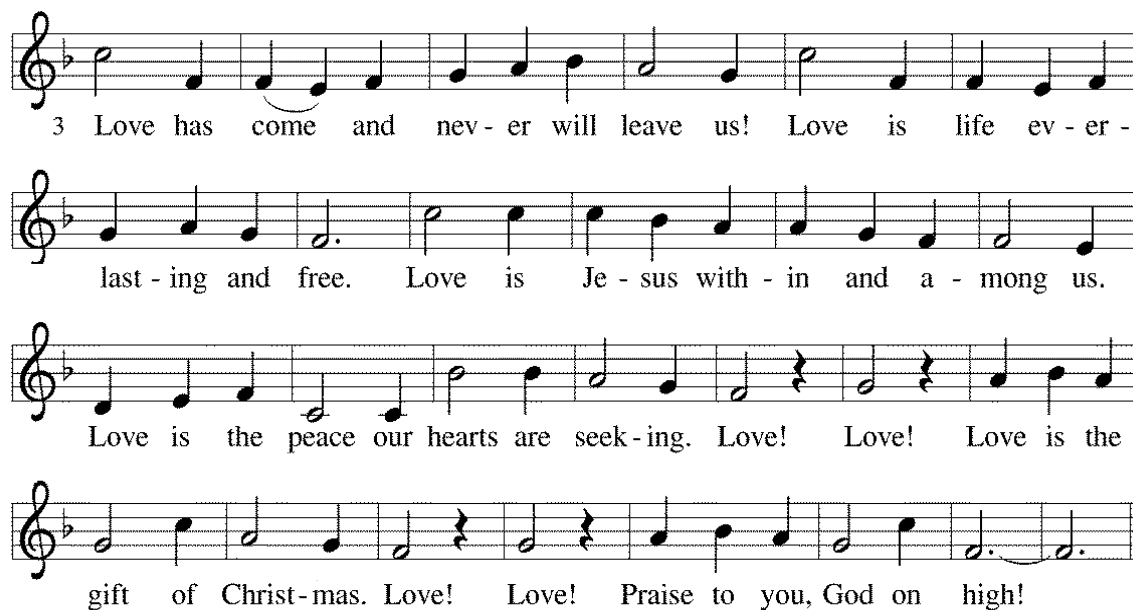
*Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to share this communion meal.*

*Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.*

*In body or spirit, please stand*

## Offertory

## Love Has Come



3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.  
We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Mother and Father of all life, from the beginning of time your Spirit breathed light over darkness. You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains. You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life. You made humans in your image, and loved us in our brokenness and beauty. You promised to stay with us wherever we might go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary. Your Spirit met her, so together you could help make creation whole. She gave birth to Jesus, your beloved one. As he grew, and heard your call more clearly, he healed wounds. He blessed the lost and lonely with the gift of home. He showed hungry souls how they could follow him in love without fear. His presence in this meal offers the same gifts and power to us.

Holy One, shine upon us tonight as you shone upon the faithful Mary and trusting shepherds. Shine upon us as you have always given light to your people in the darkest times and places. Lit by the star over the manger, we raise our voices with saints and angels in this heavenly song:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

This night we kneel by the manger and sit around the table with Jesus' disciples. This night we see this beautiful baby and we see the adult Jesus whose words, actions, and fearlessness made the powerful fear him enough to seek to silence him. Long after this holy night in Bethlehem, Jesus gathered with his friends in Jerusalem. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, he took a cup of wine, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is the blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this, do so to remember me."

We ask your Spirit to bless this meal. We gather with you tonight at the manger and in the upper room, in the joy of this night and the betrayal of that night. Come among us! We open ourselves to Jesus' presence in this meal and in each other. Fed by this meal, we will be his body given for the world you love. We promise to make these words come alive in us as we pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Sharing the Meal

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal.

So do we.

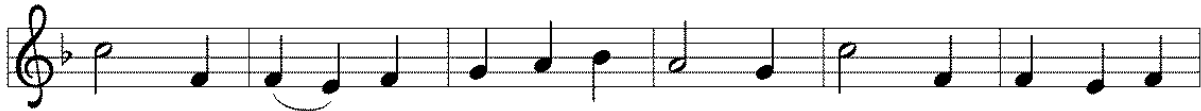
*Please be seated*

*You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray, grape-apple juice in the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available on request, ask Pastor.*

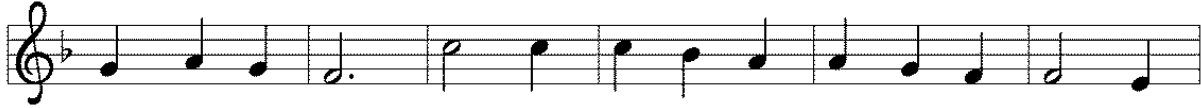


# Hymn

# Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## Hymn

## What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
- 2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
- 3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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*Please stand in body or spirit*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

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. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**Amen.**

# WE ARE SENT

## Hymn

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## Blessing

**Amen.**

## Announcements

## Postlude

## *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

arr. John Carter

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The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications.  
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**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:**

**DONOR**

Kevin Bailey  
Lynn Belhorn  
Bruce Collins  
Kay Ernsthausen  
Barbara Hairston  
Carol Heacock  
In-Phillips family  
Katie, Andy, and Ruby Jacobs  
John Kennedy  
Emily Kent and Miles Smith  
Nancy Magargal

Shirley and Matthew Miller  
Kathy and Tom Mimlitch  
Cathy Oldham  
Ann Palmerton and Brad Binau  
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Katie, Andy, and Ruby Jacobs  
Karen & Al Rider  
Dave Shull  
Tone Chimes  
Becky & Larry Trover  
Laura & Terry Warren

**IN MEMORY OF**

Ruth Anna & Vyron Bailey  
Parents Maryland and Richard Belhorn  
Karen Collins  
Parents and Grandparents and Michael  
Parents  
Stan Heacock  
Don & Marcene Phillips, Lisa Price and Saichi In  
Hilda and Dick Kautz  
Rev. and Mrs. John L. & Marcelene A. Kennedy  
Loved ones  
Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Aunts, Uncles and  
Cousins enjoying Christmas in heaven  
John Miller and Rick Henry  
Our parents and John Batts  
Husband and Sister  
Diane Hymans  
Loved Ones  
Our families  
Loved ones  
Karen Collins, Shirley & Bob Young  
Ethel & Al Zwanziger;  
Marie and Mark Zwanziger

**IN HONOR OF**

Family, Friends, & Neighbors  
All the children  
Our family and friends  
To the Glory of God  
In gratitude for this Redeemer community  
Karen Kent  
Family near and far  
Our families



## **Assisting Minister Training**

**January 7 - 11:15 am**

Training for assisting ministers during the adult ed time. Anyone who wishes to explore being an assisting minister should contact Pastor Dave at 206-725-3785 or via email at [dshull@redeemerluth.com](mailto:dshull@redeemerluth.com)

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88957366923?pwd=TnV6cFB4ZUpET25USTgzZ0diZlhnQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 5736 6923 = Passcode: 383835

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799

## **RLC 2024 Budget**

**January 14 - 11:15 am**

An opportunity for people in the church to ask questions about the proposed 2024 budget, which will be voted on at the congregational meeting after worship on **Sunday, January 28**.

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88957366923?pwd=TnV6cFB4ZUpET25USTgzZ0diZlhnQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 5736 6923 = Passcode: 383835

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



## **Bible Study**

**Tuesdays + 1:00 pm**

**Resumes January 9**

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTWl1bHR0N1FHbFRZdStabk9Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622 = Passcode: 435549

Phone only: 1-301 715 8592



**LSS Food Pantry**

**First Wednesdays**

**12:30-3:30 pm**

**Contact Kathleen Zwanziger  
to volunteer**



**Wednesday, January 17**

**7-8:30 pm**

***This Land Is Our Land:  
An Immigrant's Manifesto***

*by Suketu Mehta*

Copies are available in public libraries.

**IN-PERSON and ZOOM**

<https://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xE d3dyK1RvSURJY1FuZz09>

Meeting ID: **865 8150 4887** +++ Passcode **274918**

Phone Only: **312-626-6799**

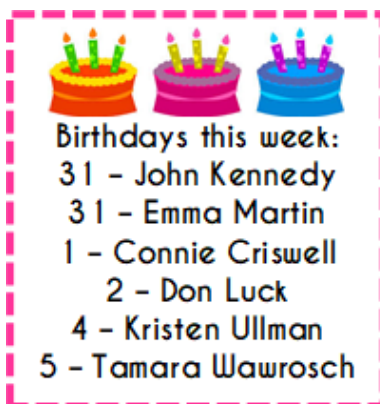
## OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	David Shull, Pastor
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Kay Ernsthause
<b>Cantor</b>	Mary Benis
<b>ASL Interpreter</b>	Bryan Neal
<b>Organist &amp; Senior Choir Director</b>	Kathy Rapp
<b>Pianist &amp; Chime Choir Director</b>	Karen Kent
<b>Usher</b>	Neil Hoddinott
<b>Verger</b>	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Wendy Stoica
<b>Producers</b>	Sue Yehling, Toshi Phillips
<b>Hospitality</b>	Sara Auman and Julianne Johnson

*Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence*

## THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER DECEMBER 31 – JANUARY 7

<b>Today</b>	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Tuesday</b>	5:15 pm	Outreach Team
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30 pm	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Assisting Minister Training



1555 South James Road, Columbus OH 43227  
614.237.1263 + [info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:info@RedeemerLuth.com) + [www.RedeemerLuth.com](http://www.RedeemerLuth.com)  
Office hours –9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu  
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