

First Sunday of Christmas



Child offering a greeting of namaste (the god in me sees the god in you)
Simikot, Nepal; photo by Cora Edmonds

December 28, 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

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.
- Please silence your cell phone.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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

Prelude *Angels, From the Realms of Glory* arr. John Carter

Welcome



Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

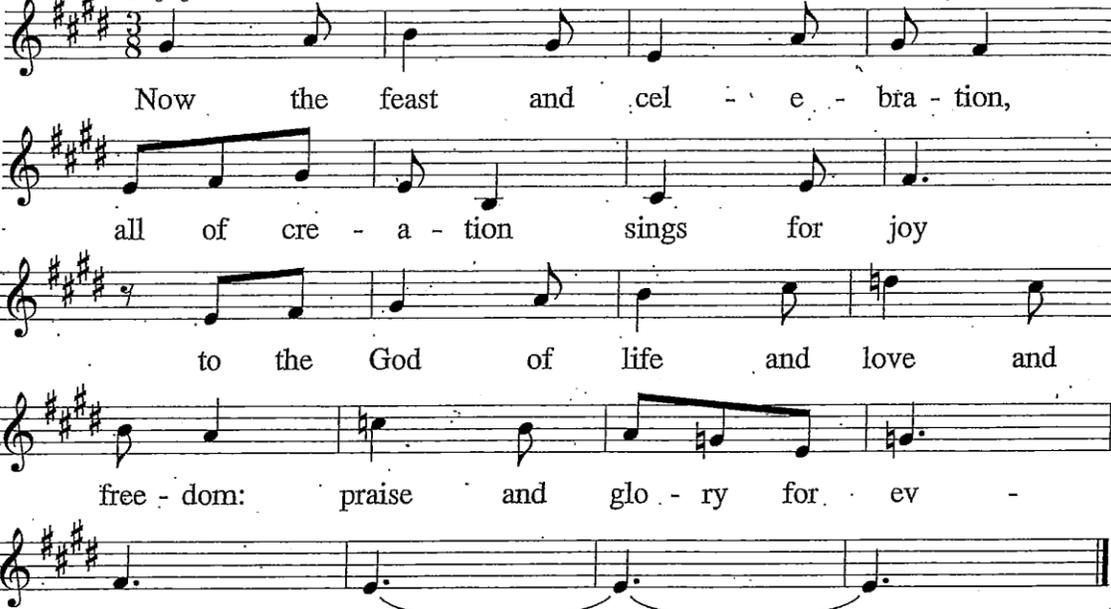
Greeting

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

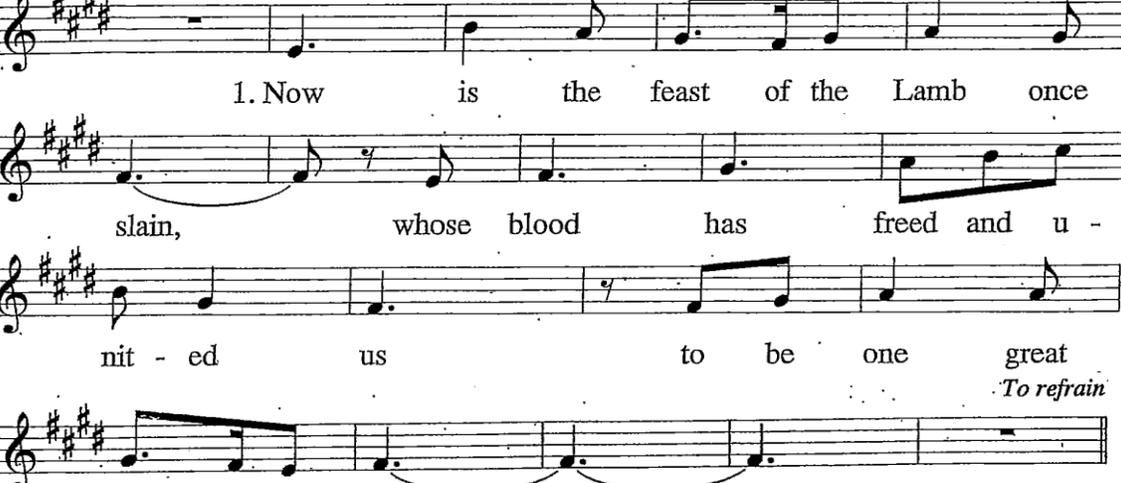
Congregation:



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:



1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God. *To refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:



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

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ *To refrain*

for ev - er.

Verse 3
Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with - us;
to make us peo - ple of God; to make
To refrain
all things new.

Prayer of the Day

This Christmas, Intimate One, you have come to us again as Love-made-flesh. Yet we know you bring us news of your love every morning and every moment if only we would open ourselves to receive it. We will let your love begin to heal those ways we push love away. We will keep love flowing through us to a world that needs our love. We will let your love in us repeat the sounding joy that love must always win. **Amen.**

Please be seated



WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9 (The Message, inclusivized)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

[Isaiah said to the people who had returned from exile in Babylon,]

“I’ll make a list of God’s gracious dealings,

all the things God has done that need praising,

All the generous bounties of God’s great goodness

to the family of Israel—compassion lavished, love extravagant.”

God said, “Without question these are my people,

children who would never betray me.”

So God became their Savior.

In all their troubles, God was troubled, too.

God didn’t send someone else to help them.

but came to them in person.

Out of God’s own love and pity

God redeemed them, rescued them,

and carried them along for a long, long time.

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

Amen.



Psalmody

Adapted from *Praise God: Common Prayer at Taizé*

Elizabeth Frohrip, 1980

First time Cantor; Second time **All**

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Lord, my hope is in you, bring me news of your love ev-'ry morn-ing." Above the staff, the following chords are written: D, G, C, Am, D, C, Em, D. There are also some handwritten markings above the staff, including "3" and "5" with lines connecting them to specific notes.

Cantor

1-Hear my prayer, O Lord, hear me, for you are faithful and just.

All Refrain

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff, labeled "REFRAIN". The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "All Bring me news of your love ev-'ry morn-ing." Above the staff, the following chords are written: Am, D, C, Em, D. There are also some handwritten markings above the staff, including "3" and "5" with lines connecting them to specific notes.

Cantor

2-I remember former times, and think of all you have done.

All Refrain

3-I stretch out my hands toward you; I am like dry, waterless ground.

All Refrain

4-Show me the way to walk, for I lift up my life to you.

All Refrain

5-Glory to the father, and to the Son, and Holy Spirit.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "All Lord, my hope is in you, bring me news of your love ev - 'ry morn - ing." Above the staff, the following chords are written: D, G, C, Am, D, C, Em, D. There are also some handwritten markings above the staff, including "3" and "5" with lines connecting them to specific notes.

Please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

Gospel Luke 2:41-52 (Contemporary English Version)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover.

When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "Child, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Abba?" But they had no idea what he was talking about.

So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

“Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.”

Rumi (13th-century Muslim poet)

Marking a New Season of Endings and Beginnings

Pastor Dave Shull: Redeemer, for over eight years, you have given me the honor of letting me be your pastor. There is no way I can thank you enough for this gift. You have stretched me, challenged me, changed me, healed me, and loved me. You have called out of me more than I ever imagined I could be and do.

When I leave this beautiful place this afternoon, I will no longer be your pastor. That doesn't mean my love for you ends. As long as I have memory, that love will live on! What it does mean is our relationship changes. As a pastor ordained in the United Church of Christ and serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I must follow the ethical requirements these denominations place on pastors when they leave service to a congregation. Even if you or I don't like or understand these requirements, following them is not optional for me. To retire with integrity, I need to follow these requirements. And I need your support so I can follow them.

So, as I end this season as your pastor, I make these promises to you:

Redeemer, after today, I promise I will not do anything to put myself in the role of being your pastor. That means I will not officiate at any baptisms, weddings, memorial services, or similar occasions involving you or your family members. These are sacred celebrations for your new pastor to lead.

Redeemer, after today, I will not reach out to any of you for a conversation or get-together until your interim pastor has completed their work, and until your new called pastor has been serving Redeemer for at least one year. After that time has passed, we may be in contact again.

In-coming Congregation Council President Ashley Bird: As we seek to support Dave to live into his retirement with integrity, and as we open ourselves to new relationships with our interim and called pastors, we make these promises:

Pastor Dave, after today, I promise I will not ask you to do anything that puts you in the role of being my pastor. That means I will not ask you to officiate at any baptisms, weddings, memorial services, or similar occasions involving me or my family members. These are sacred celebrations for my new pastor to lead.

Pastor Dave, after today, I promise I will not reach out to you for a conversation or get-together until our interim pastor has completed their work, and until our new called pastor has been serving Redeemer for at least one year. After that time has passed, we may be in contact again.

Pastor Dave: Today, you and I enter a new season of endings and beginnings. You are a beautiful, vibrant, compassionate, bold, playful Body of Christ. Thank you, thank you, thank you for the adventures we have shared together. Any pastors who join you on the adventures which lie ahead don't have a clue how lucky and how blessed they will be. Redeemer, I love you!



Musical Reflection

It's All in the Hands of God

Natalie Sleeth
Choir

There's a time for living and a time to die,
A time for laughing and a time to cry,
A time for wondering and knowing why,
But it's all in the hands of God.

There's a time for harvest and a time to sow,
A time for lingering, a time to go,
A time for happiness, a time for woe,
But it's all in the hands of God.

REFRAIN

For everything there's a season since first the world began;
For all that is there's a reason: It's part of the Maker's plan.

There's a time for singing and a time to pray,
A time to gather and to cast away,
A time for everything that comes our way,
But it's all in the hands of God.

A time to laugh, a time to cry,
The reason why is all in the hands of God.
A time to reap, a time to sow, but this I know:
It's all in the hands of God. *REFRAIN*

There's a time for singing and a time to pray,
A time to gather and to cast away,
A time for everything that comes our way,
But it's all in the hands of God;
It's all in the hands of the Lord, our God.
In the hands of God.

Statement of Faith

We open ourselves to fresh images for God and the Church as we proclaim these words:

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(The United Church of Canada)

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, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs,
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, Becky and
Larry Trover's son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Kathie Ehrich,
Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Karen Rider's niece Tammy
and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim, and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman,
Debbie Turner's friends Sherrie and Jim Tompkins, Emily Crosley, Bill Boys, Grace and
Ken Jones and their son Dan Jones, Ranel and Neil Hoddinott's son-in-law Russ Ward,
sister and brother-in-law Paulie and Jerry Shaffer
For the people of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Columbus
For Redeemer community member Dave Shull and Mike Allen

Time with the Young People

Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We greet those who are livestreaming with us by waving to the camera in the back of the sanctuary above the choir loft. Then you are encouraged to greet each other in a way that expresses the peace and love of Christ.

If you do not wish close contact, offer a sign of blessing to others to let them know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.

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

You Are Holy

1*

You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2

You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling

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South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

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Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
 One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

In this season of Christmas, we kneel by the manger remembering the birth of Jesus while at the same time we gather around the table of the last supper with his disciples. 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 that 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. As we live between the manger and the upper room, between the joy of Christmas and the betrayal of the last supper, 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

Whoever you are, from wherever you come, whatever you believe, you are welcome and invited to receive. Come! For all things are now ready.

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

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

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

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

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

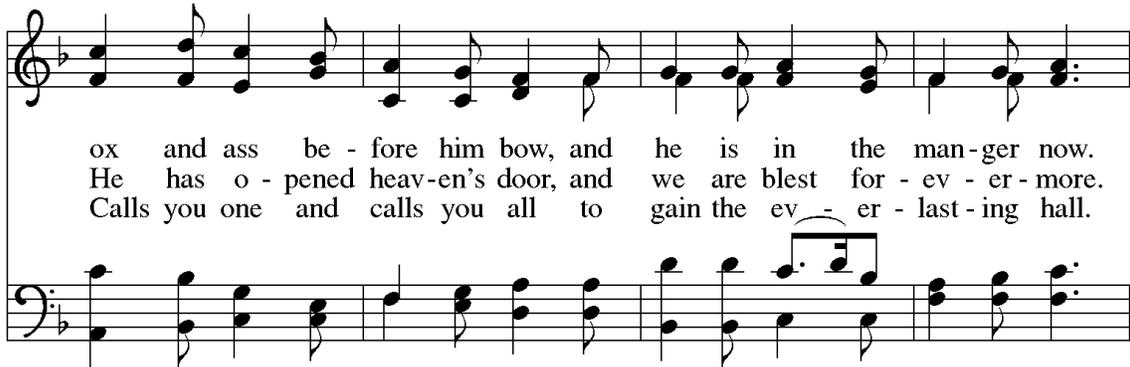
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Blessing

Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Joel Raney
Piano duet

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The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:

DONOR

Kevin Bailey
Bruce Collins
Kay Ernsthausen
Barbara Hairston
Carol Heacock
In/Phillips Family
Thelma Johnson
John Kennedy
Emily Kent & Miles Smith
Kathy & Tom Mimlitch
Ruth Murray & Donna Voelkel
Ann Palmerton & Brad Binau
Steiner Family
Wendy Stoica
Becky & Larry Trover
Linda Williams
Jennifer & Tim Young

IN MEMORY OF

Ruth Anna & Vyron Bailey
Karen Collins
Loved Ones
David Hairston Sr.
Stan
Don, Marcene, Lisa, and Saichi
My family
Rev. John L. & Marcelene A. Kennedy
Loved ones
Our parents, John Batts
Ellen Regina Rose
Walt & Jan Bouman
Loved Ones
Anna Fox and Mary Catnoir
Our parents
John Huber
Shirley & Bob Young and Karen Collins

DONOR

Lynn Belhorn
Dana family
Carol Heacock
Ranel & Neil Hoddinott
Nancy Magargal
Kathy & Tom Mimlitch
Ruth Murray & Donna Voelkel
Karen & Al Rider
Wendy Stoica
Laura & Terry Warren
Linda Williams
Kathleen Zwanziger

IN HONOR OF

My children: Kristin, Megan, Saki and their families
Harri Dana
For all who are Redeemer Lutheran Church
Pastor Dave
My family
Tone Chimes, Karen Kent
Our Children, Redeemer Musicians
Celebration of Our Family
Loved Ones
Our Family
Family
Jeremy and Eric

Adult Ed
January 4 + 11:15 am
Room 2

RLC 2026 Spending Plan
Laura Warren

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81952034409?pwd=IsIzRLXkWCVvjlAgAzG6mvTT2N9uIR.1>

Meeting ID: 819 5203 4409

Passcode: 781179

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799

Adult Ed
January 11, 18 + 11:15 am
Room 2

Abuse Prevention:
Safe Church
Brad Binau

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81952034409?pwd=IsIzRLXkWCVvjlAgAzG6mvTT2N9uIR.1>

Meeting ID: 819 5203 4409

Passcode: 781179

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



Monthly Sunday School for all ages!

Sunday, January 11 == 11:15 am

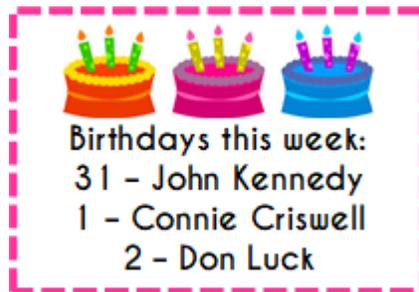
OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister	David Shull, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Al Rider
ASL Interpreter	Marilyn Floyd
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Judith Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
Communion Prep	Becky Trover, Michele Disbro, Ruby Jacobs
Producers	Scott Steiner, April Smith
Hospitality	Laura & Terry Warren

The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA Good Gifts.

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER DECEMBER 28 – JANUARY 4

Today	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
Next Sunday	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education



Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America