



REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of Memphis*

Season: Eastertide
May 5, 2024

Redeemer exists to love God and love our neighbors in Midtown Memphis.

*All are welcome regardless of personal or spiritual background.
We are here for the lost and the found, the burned and bored, the
cynical and the spiritual, the convinced
and the unconvinced.*

Parents

We believe church is for all people, including children, and we want Redeemer to be a church where children are both seen and heard. Please don't worry if your children wiggle or make noise during the service!
We also recognize that there are seasons of life where it is more helpful to have your children cared for outside of the worship service.

Nurseries (Infant - 3 years old)

Children can be checked in to the nursery prior to the service and picked up after the benediction.

Children's Church (4 years - Kindergarten)

Children's Church will be dismissed by a pastor during the service. They will return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

Sunday School Class (1-2 Grade)

1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School meets during the same time as Children's Church during both worship services. They will be dismissed by a pastor during the service and will return after the sermon.

Joy is at the heart of God's plan for human beings.

John Ortberg

You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.

G.K. Chesterton

Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.

Wendell Berry

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psalm 36:7-9

Welcome

Preparation Song

Come, let us worship the Lord, for we are his people the flock that he shepherds
Come, let us worship the Lord, for we are his people the flock that he shepherds

Alleluia
Alleluia

GATHERING

God Calls Us to Worship

Psalm 95 :1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

For The Beauty of The Earth

Public Domain. Words: Folliot Pierpoint. Music: Conrad Kocher.

**For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For Thyself, best Gift Divine.
To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in Heaven.**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

O Jesus, Son of David, look upon us in our great need!

Remove from us every thing that keeps us from seeking you as our first desire and only hope.

Deliver us from all that makes us proud, that we may find the beautiful rest of humility found only at your feet.

Make us like little children, who hope not in our own strength and wisdom, but in yours.

By your light, may we see all things. All that is broken, all that is beautiful.

In your power, may we walk; by faith and not by sight.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 30:3-5

You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Thanks be to God!

Sacrament of Covenant Baptism

10:45am

Charlotte Winfree Ivy (Lottie)

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate Charlotte to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

We do, by God's grace.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong
They are weak but he is strong
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so

The Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ always be with you.
And also with you.

⬆️ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Announcements

Prayers of God's People

How Can I Keep My Path

Psalm 119:9-16, Words and Music by Stephen Gordon.

**Oh Lord how can I keep my path
Free from the stain of sin?
I guard it as your Word commands
And store Your truth within**

**With my whole heart I long for you
Oh let me never stray
From perfect laws of righteousness
But let me see your face**

**Oh blessed be the God of grace!
Who gives his Holy Word
Oh may our hearts sing of
And tell the truth we've heard**

**Your laws, on them I fix my mind
My eyes upon your ways
Delighting in your perfect will,
Such grace for all my days**

**Your ways are fully my delight
More than silver and gold
I think upon them in the night
what riches yet untold**

**Oh blessed be the God of grace!
Who gives his Holy Word
Oh may our hearts sing of
And tell the truth we've heard**

**I fix my mind upon Your laws
My eyes upon your ways
Delighting in your will,
Such grace for all my days**

**Oh Lord, your Word made flesh has come
In Jesus Christ our King
Delighting in your perfect will
He kept your law complete**

**Oh blessed be the God of grace!
Who gives his Holy Word
Oh may our hearts sing of
And tell the truth we've heard**

**I fix my mind upon Your laws
My eyes upon your ways
Delighting in your will,
Such grace for all my days**

Children's Dismissal

Children that are 4 years old through 2nd Grade are dismissed at this time for their classes.

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3; 8-12

¹ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Preaching of the Word

Sermon: Celebration
Series: The Practices of Love
Rev. Matt Howell

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

©2001 Philip Palmertree Music. Words: Anne Cousin (based on Samuel Rutherford's letters). Music: traditional folk tune (arr. Phillip Palmertree).

The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for -
The fair, sweet morn awakes:
Dark, dark had been the midnight
But dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Emmanuel's land.

O I am my Beloved's
And my Beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His house of wine
I stand upon His merit -
I know no other stand,
Not e'en where glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

THE TABLE

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Giving of Tithes and Freewill Offerings

Offering boxes are available for donations in the front and back of the sanctuary. You can give online by texting "Give" to 901-805-1020 or by Venmo (@redeermemphis). Contact churchoffice@redeermemphis.org for stock and non-cash giving.

Come To The Feast

Jeff Lawson

**Go to the highways and hedges,
Go to the farthest of fields;
Go and compel the sick and the well;
For our Father's house will be filled.**

**Go to the streets of the city,
Bring in the crippled and blind;
All who would taste this banquet of grace
Must come and waste no more time.**

**Come to the feast, come to the table;
The great and the least, the rich and the poor.
Come to the feast, come to the table,
Come and hunger no more.**

**In the robe of the lamb you'll be covered,
Dressed in his pure righteousness;
For all of your guilt, his blood it was spilt;
So come by your Father be blessed.**

**Come to the feast, come to the table;
The great and the least, the rich and the poor.
Come to the feast, come to the table,
Come and hunger no more.**

**Come to the feast, come to the table;
The great and the least, the rich and the poor.
Come to the feast, come to the table,
Come and hunger no more.**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Words: George Matheson. Music: Christopher Miner.

**Oh love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in thee
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be**

**Oh light that followest all my way
I yield my flickering torch to thee
My heart restores its borrowed ray
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be**

**Oh joy that seekest me through pain
I cannot close my heart to thee
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be**

**Oh cross that liftest up my head
I dare not ask to fly from thee
I lay in dust's life's glory dead
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be**

**Oh love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in thee
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be**

 **Dismissal**

Let us go forth to serve Midtown, our city and the world as those who are loved by our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Benediction

Go in peace, in the knowledge of your King's great power.

Go in confidence, in the knowledge of your King's great strength.

Go in joy, in the knowledge of your King's unending, unspeakable, unfailing love. Amen.

REST

Worship Services

Join us in person for our 9:00am or 10:45am service or online at 10:45am on Sundays. You can find our sermons by searching "Redeemer Memphis" wherever you listen to podcasts.

Giving

Checks can be mailed to the church office (651 S Cooper St, Memphis TN 38104) and online giving is available at redeermemphis.org. Offering boxes are available for donations in the front and back of the sanctuary. You can give online by texting "Give" to 901-805-1020 or by Venmo (@redeermemphis). Contact churchoffice@redeermemphis.org for stock and non-cash giving.

New Music

The Redeemer worship team has recorded and released a new song! Listen to May The Mind by Redeemer Memphis anywhere you stream music!

Graduation Sunday

Please join us between services on May 12th for light refreshments to celebrate and acknowledge the graduation of Knox Brown!

REMIND

Sundaes on a Sunday

Rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, join us today, May 5! Plan to meet us on the back patio of the church (651 S Cooper) from 2-3:30 PM for an afternoon of ice-cream sundaes.

Men's Pub Night

Calling all men! On Tuesday, May 14th from 6-9 we will be posted up and hanging hard at Wiseacre on Broad. Come and go as you need to!

Church-wide picnic at Overton Park in the Greensward

Please join us in the Greensward at Overton Park for a church-wide "Bring Your Own Picnic" on Sunday afternoon, May 19th, from 5:00 -7:00 pm. Bring any outdoor games, pets, etc - and we will be sure to end the evening with a highly competitive (yet inclusive) game of kickball!

Redeemer Youth:

Sunday Night Youth at Redeemer: WILL BREAK UNTIL JUNE 2. Normally, Junior High (grades 6-8) will meet at Redeemer (651 S. Cooper St.) from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. and Senior High (grades 9-12) will meet at Redeemer from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. Dinner is provided! If you have any questions at all about Redeemer's Youth Ministry or would like to find out more information, please call/text Austin Lenox at (256) 617-2891 or email him at Austin@RedeemerMemphis.org

- We have shirts in the back! \$20

3-5 Grade

Bible Study for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be taking a break in May and will return on Sunday nights at our regular time, 5:00-6:15, starting June 9. We will be meeting this summer at the home of the Echols to study the parables of Jesus. Please join us!

Community Group Sign Ups

Community Groups are one of the best ways to get involved in the life of Redeemer. These multigenerational groups meet 2x each month for times of fellowship, prayer, service to one another, and service to our city. If you would like to be placed in a group (including church members if you are not already in a CG), please fill out the form at redeermemphis.org/signup. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Austin Lenox austin@redeermemphis.org.

REFLECT

Camp Create and Create Fest: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Camp Create is our summer art camp for rising 1st-3rd grade children, happening June 3-6th! The evening of June 6, we invite our entire community to come celebrate the week with our big party, Create Fest. We'll have live music, food trucks, and all kinds of family friendly fun. We need all hands on deck to pull it all off and have volunteer options for anyone and everyone to help. Please check out the sign up at redeermemphis.org/campcreate or reach out to Katie@redeermemphis.org.

Partner Spotlight: Lowther family with MTW in Japan

Roger and Abi Lowther lead MTW's Tokyo's Community Arts team, a team of artists and professionals working alongside Japanese nationals to assist church planting through worship, arts, evangelism, and discipleship.

Ways to pray and to get involved:

- The Ishikawa prefecture of Japan suffered a terrible earthquake on January 1. There were over 200 fatalities. Please pray for the grieving and injured, for comfort and guidance for the people who have lost their homes, for disaster relief where it is needed most, and for spiritual needs to be met along with physical needs.
- Give: You can donate to MTW's earthquake disaster relief here: <https://mtw.org/projects/japan-disaster-area-response>
- Roger is about to be the first Mission to the World missionary to ever pursue ordination as a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in Japan. Please pray that it would be a good thing for his church and his family.

www.redeermemphis.org

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