

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 | 9 AM



ADVENT: A Season of Hope

As the days grow shorter, we lean into the darkness to see God's creativity, and glean part of the Creator's hope. This Advent season, starting today, we are using resources from Lutheran World Relief, an organization that we actively support and admire (www.lwr.org). LWR has given congregations the gift of **Advent Stories of Hope**. We will be learning the stories of people from Honduras, Nepal, Lebanon, and Sudan each week of Advent. Here are ways you can participate:

- Children will have the opportunity to bring a "noisy offering" an offering of all the change they can find. **If you have jars of coins at home, bring them to worship,** and the kids will dump them into a bucket to be collected to support LWR.
- Navigate to www.lwr.org and **find ways that you can give hope to families** who are suffering, in large ways and small.
- In your circle of connection or small group, **use this study guide to dig deeper** into Advent as a season of hope. www.lwr.org/advent-resources

WELCOME!

Welcome! It is a joy to worship together!

As a community in the model of Christ, we warmly welcome all who have come seeking God in worship at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of every race, gender, ethnic background, social status, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity and as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we seek to embrace the love of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We gather to experience the presence of God in Word and Sacrament and to give praise to God who loves us unconditionally.

ONLINE OR BY PHONE

- By phone: call 1-206-337-9723. Then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method will let you listen in, but not view the service.
- By Facebook Live: Go to www.facebook.com/ourredeemers. You don't have to have a facebook account it's a public channel.
- By Zoom: Download the Zoom app to your computer, tablet, or cell phone. It's free!
 Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/822691346.

 (Make sure that your Zoom is upgraded to the current version.)

Note for Communion: While it is our practice to celebrate Holy Communion using one loaf of bread, due to the pandemic we have pivoted to using pre-packaged individual communion cups. Wine, juice, and gluten free cups are available. To participate in the meal, open the wafer first, and then open the wine or juice. If you would prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest as you come forward.

OUR VISION:

In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks and grows.

We are on land created by God and stewarded for generations by the indigenous ancestors of the Duwamish people, who are still here. We honor the Creator's continuing presence in this land, confess our complicity in its brokenness, and awaken to our connectedness with all of creation.

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GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP SONG

In These Darkest Days

In these darkest days
Bring your light to our lives
Like the moon on the snow
In your hope we will glow

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WELCOME AND SILENT PREPARATION

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

God of Light, we come before you seeking your hope and power. Our hearts desire your presence. We are waiting for the dawn from on high to break upon us. We light candles trusting that the smallest flame can drive out our greatest fears. We anticipate your coming among us with peace and thankfulness. As we await your coming, light a flame within us: May we shine with the brightness of your hope.

God of Light, as we light this second candle, open our voices to declare your goodness. You come from on high into the depths of our lives, into both the joy and the despair. And you declare your grace for each of us. Guide us in the path of peace. Light a flame within us:

May we shine with the brightness of your light.

God of Light, we remember today our brothers and sisters in Nepal. As they wait for healing and support, give them your peace. We pray for your presence, knowledge, and protection for our neighbors amid the challenges they face. Grant them health and understanding. Light a flame within us:

May we shine with the brightness of your hope.

continued

^{*}Please stand, as you are able.

God of Light, keep our voices tuned to words of praise. May we always follow your path of peace.

Guide us in these Advent days until our Savior is born among us.

Turn our attention to you, the One who is our song, our hope and our joy. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the light that has no end.

Amen.

*WREATH LIGHTING SONG

Just One Light - Mertes/Fund

Just one light fills the world with love Just one light dispels the shadows Just one light can bring hope through the night Oh lord let us be just one light

Love will be our song
Peace on earth will be realized
Joy will come along out of the wilderness
Hope keeps us coming back. (stoke our fires)
Hope keeps us coming back. (stoke our fires)
Hope keeps us coming back. (stoke our fires)
Oh Lord let us be just one light

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*GREETING

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God,
to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming give to all the people of the world
knowledge of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Philippians 1:3-11

Listen for the word of God.

Our ears and hearts are open.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Send us a sign, your people look up, your people look east. Send us your Word, your people need peace. Alleluia, Alleuia -a-a. Send us a sign. (sing twice)

*THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

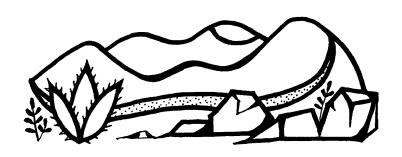
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



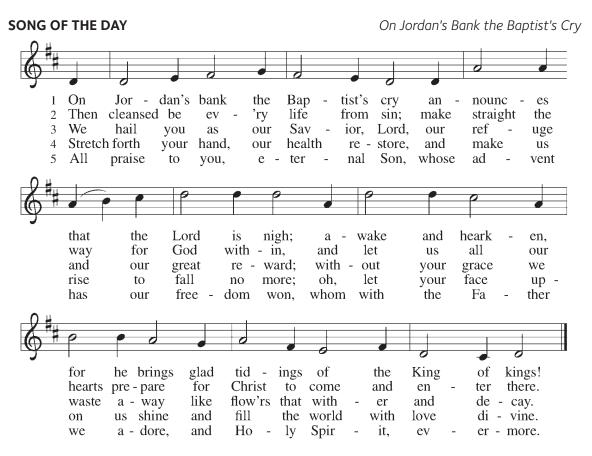
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF VIDEO: NEPAL

KID'S MESSAGE AND NOISY OFFERING

Pastor Gretchen Mertes

SERMON

Pastor Gretchen Mertes



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*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Especially, this Advent, we ask you to bless the work of Lutheran World Relief. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else do the people of God pray?

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

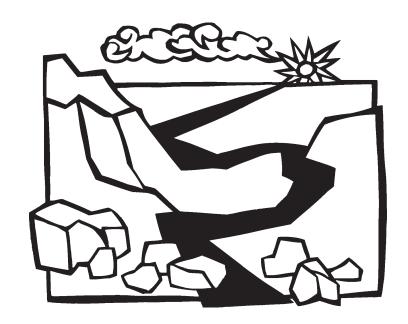
Amen.

*PEACE

May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts. The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace by crossing hands over your heart, or another gesture, saying "Peace be with you."



MEAL

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

New Redemption Song - Over the Rhine

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Mystery of winter skies, we thank you in the darkening hour for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty; for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light; for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.

He was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws near again to show us who we really are with honesty and love. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new and eternal covenant relationship in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us in whatever words are most prayerful for you:

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.

*INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Come to Christ's table.
Feast on God's gift of grace.
These are the gifts of God, for you, the beloved people of God, for the hope of the world.

All Are Welcome

to commune, including children (as parents permit).

Note: While it is our practice to celebrate Holy Communion using one loaf of bread, due to the pandemic we have pivoted to using pre-packaged individual communion cups. Wine, juice, and gluten free cups are available. To participate in the meal, open the wafer first, and then open the wine or juice. If you would prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest as you come forward.



LAMB OF GOD Mertes/Fund

(sing three times)

We wait for the Son to come again We wait for hope to rise We wait, prepared to serve again We wait for the dawn on high.

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

COMMUNION SONG

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let earth receive her king! Let every heart prepare him room, heaven and nature sing,

Joy to the earth, the savior reigns! Let all men their songs employ! While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love.

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*TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your hope, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

May the God of hope open your future, May the God of peace teach you to pray. May the God of joy lift up your hearts And may the God of love go with us each day. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee. born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is -rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



ear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.

y thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Celebrate Christmas!

Zoom Caroling
Sunday, December 12, 2 -4 PM
Online

Beer & Carols
Tuesday, December 14th, 7 PM
In-Person

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 19, 11 AM
In-Person | Online

Blue Christmas
...when the holidays are difficult
Tuesday, December 21, 7 PM

In-Person | Online

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services
4 PM Family
10 PM Traditional
In-Person I Online

Join us! In-Person or

Online: facebook @OurRedeemers

Learn More: ourredeemers.net/christmas

We Pray for...

Barbara Brian, Alex Brown, Rusdee Chastain, Brenda Delrosario, Harry Ecklund, James Ellingboe, John Ellingboe, Anna Freyberg, Richard & Shirley Holt, Carol Hurlburt, Elwood Latta, Karen Lee, Ann McIntyre, Barbara Olsen, Mel Rembold, Emily Schmidt, Jennifer Seyler, Stearns Family, Kennedy Stearns, Stoddard Family, Charlotte Wallstrom; families of the four students who died in the shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan, and for students, teachers, and parents in that township and others nearby; immigrant families remaining separated; Road 2 Housing quests.

Grieving the Loss of...

Luv Padre; Doug Lieberg; Claudia Wagner; Joe Wagner; Clair Ohnstad

To include someone in the prayers for 4 weeks, please <u>email</u> the church.

IN OUR SERVICE TODAY

Preaching: Pastor Gretchen Mertes Presiding: Pastor Kathy Hawks Musicians: Gretchen Mertes, Betsy McGregor, Sam Purvine Audio/Visual: Phillipa Dugaw

Our Staff

Kathy Hawks x104

Pastor kathyh@ourredeemers.net

Gretchen Mertes x103

Pastor

pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net

Elizabeth Dickinson x105

Social Justice Coordinator outreach@ourredeemers.net

Karen Lee

Traditional Worship / Music Director karen@ourredeemers.net

Karie Stearns x101

Parish Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net

Debbie Lematta x105

Communications Coordinator communications@ourredeemers.net

Mandy Neill x102

Welcome Ministry office@ourredeemers.net

Jordan Holt

Nursery Attendant

www.ourredeemers.net | 206.783.7900 2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98117

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website or current newsletter.



social justice

O Giving Tree, O Giving Tree!

There's still time to participate and bring joy to neighbors from Mary's Place, the Ballard Food Bank, and our Road to Housing guests! Note: Gifts for Broadview Thomson are due today, and those for Mary's Place are due by December 11th! Thank you to those who have already gifted, and to all for being a generous part of this year's Giving Tree!

Share a Dinner

Ballard Sunday Dinner in December will be Sunday the 19th. Many people will be out of town, so if you are around, please consider signing up to lead, cook, serve, make coffee or clean up. The holidays can be a lonely time of year, so a warm meal lovingly prepared is especially appreciated. Sign up here. Thank you!

Gifts Touching Two Hearts at Once

Sometimes you have that person in your life who doesn't need anything, or who may be trying to downsize. Lutheran World Relief offers a gift catalog in which you could give mosquito netting or a COVID relief package, or a safe house for a survivor of violence and more. You'll receive a personalized card to give as well. Check it out: https://giftsoflove.org/all-gifts or pick up a catalog in the narthex.

Thank You to Thanksgiving Volunteers!

So many people helped make a happy Thanksgiving for those without homes this year! Thank you to givers, sleeping bag purchasers and loaders, pie-planners, pie-bakers, pie container decorators, pie deliverers, Edible Hope food and sleeping bag distributors, and Road to Housing meal preppers, servers, and cleaners! And a special thank you to Janet Woodfield who donated 145 hand-knitted hats! Thank you to...

All of you for gifts of 220 pairs of socks and

110 sleeping bags! Addi Mertes Aivree Watkins Bob Carlson Cindy Anderson Craig Perry

Dave Eicke Elizabeth Dickinson

Gretchen Mertes

Hannah Merrill (Elizabeth's daughter)

Harper Hammett Janet Woodfield

Jenny Vickrey & Vickrey teens Joe Merrill (Elizabeth's partner)

Julie Vannoy

Justin Young & Young children

Karlie Piper Kim Smith Lake Neill Lisa Thompson Lucy Watkins Mandy Neill

Max Brereton Michael Hammett Phillipa Dugaw

Riley Hammett Bash Savo Sonja Braasch Stephanie Running

Tom Bernard Weller Mertes



faith formation

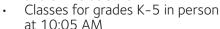
Adult Forums - Reconnecting Through Our Sacred Stories Sundays, 10:10 AM | Fellowship Hall (East)

Our Adult Forum class helps us reconnect by sharing our personal spiritual journeys with one another (similar to what we do in the Journey new member process). Two people at each Sunday morning class will tell us about their faith journey. We will provide prompts and suggestions about where you might begin. it will be all yours to tell and a joy for others to hear. If you'd be willing to sign up for one of these sessions, please let Sally Parker-Henderson, wpainter26@yahoo.com, know which Sunday works for you. Join us to explore together our deep spiritual selves.

Faith Formation for Youth & Kids

O-Rock! = Our Redeemer's Outstanding Church Kids...are presented in the following age groups every Sunday.











O-ROCK Needs: One hour a month enriches your life and the lives of our children. We use an easy to implement curriculum which mirrors the worship service. We also need books and toys for the small to the tall, for our parent lounge and gently used furniture for our parent lounge. Thanks!

Wednesday Bible Study Wednesdays, 10:30 AM | Zoom

Join in the study of heroic figures in the Bible like Moses, Jeremiah, Jacob, and others not so well defined using movies, YouTube, videos and, of course, the written Word. The time is 10:30 AM until noon on Zoom. Interested in joining in? Contact Carolyn Swanson, cdkswan@gmail.com or 206-390-7732.

Do you have questions about Pastor Kathy's retirement, or anything else about this time of transition?

Then join Pastor Kathy for a Q & A session on Sunday, December 19 at 10 AM.



worship

Centering Prayer Wednesdays, 4-4:35PM

In Centering Prayer, we seek to open ourselves to God in silence. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact <u>Pastor Kathy</u>.

"Good News of Great Joy!" A Pageant for Christmas Sunday, December 19, 11 AM | In-Person & Online Mandatory In-Person Rehearsal: Saturday December 18th, 10 AM Video Parts for Online Due December 10th

This year, on December 19, we will have a combined online and in-person pageant telling the joy of the Christmas story! Kids of all ages (big and little!) are invited to participate.

IN PERSON: In person, we have speaking and non-speaking roles, singing and non-singing roles, and narrator parts for a few kids who are 12+. Our rehearsal for the pageant will be SATURDAY DECEMBER 18th at 10 AM. Kids will get their costumes and practice the pageant only on that day, so the rehearsal is mandatory!

ONLINE: Kids who are participating online will be asked to sing two songs and record themselves. These will be put into a mosaic video to be used during the pageant. If you would like to participate in those videos – which are super fun! – please contact Pastor Gretchen. Video parts of online participants will need to be submitted by December 10.





community

Zoom Caroling

Sunday, December 12, 2-4 PM | Zoom Only

Get out the eggnog for a spirited sing-along from home (or wherever you are) as we Zoom a live caroling event from under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary! Pastor Gretchen and friends are your online hosts! Online only. Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/822691346 Join by Phone Call: +1 (206) 337-9723

We Did it! Thanks be to God! Thank YOU!

Our Redeemer's has more than met our \$800,000 goal to pay off our building loan!

We are also pleased with the progress made towards our 2022 annual mission/operating budget, **but there is still a gap** to bridge to meet our \$600,000 goal.



If you haven't pledged yet, please prayerfully consider doing so! Or maybe you've pledged, and, are feeling a nudge to increase your pledge.

How to Pledge

Fill out your hard copy commitment card at home and mail or email a photo of it to the church. You can download a pdf of the card to print, <u>HERE</u>; or Pledge using our <u>Online Pledge Form</u>.

How to Give Now and Throughout the Year

- **ONLINE GIVING:** Go to ourredeemers.net, and click on the "Giving" tab to see giving options, OR call (206)783-7900 x101.
- MOBILE GIVING APP: Download the free "Vanco" app and search for "Our Redeemers Lutheran Church" and follow the instructions.
- MAIL A CHECK: Write a check out to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Mail to 2400 NW 85th St., Seattle, 98117.
- **DONATE STOCK**: Go to ourredeemers.net, and click on the "Giving" tab and find "Give to Our Redeemer's via Donation of Stock" link.

Administrator Karie Stearns (administrator@ourredeemers.net, 2067-783-7900 x101) can help you set up or update your automatic giving if needed, and can answer all your qiving questions.



No, we're not a pub, but we're sure going to do our best to make Our Redeemer's front patio and narthex into the merriest Beer & Carols venue around! Join in for a fun time of singing and imbibing. Bring your favorite festive beverage, and sing along inside or outside. We'll have a fire pit, and a holly jolly good time celebrating the impending birth of Jesus.

This Week at Our Redeemer's

Today, December 5 9 AM - Sprouts | In Person

9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall 10 AM - Sprouts | Zoom 10 AM - O-Rock, Middle School Hangout 10 AM - Confirmation

11 AM - Traditional Worship

Monday, December 6 6:00 PM - Finance Team

Tuesday, December 7
11 AM -Road to Housing Meeting
7 PM - Executive Committee

Wednesday, December 8 10:30 AM - Bible Study | Zoom 1 PM - Staff Meeting

4 PM - Centering Prayer | Sanctuary 7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir

Thursday, December 9
7 PM - Informal Ensemble Rehearsal

Sunday, December 12 9 AM - Sprouts | In Person

9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall 10 AM - Sprouts | Zoom 10 AM - O-Rock, Middle School Hangout

10 AM - Confirmation

11 AM - Traditional Worship

2 PM - Zoom Caroling

Email office@ourredeemers.net if you need online or in-person meeting help. Find meeting information in the announcements herein or on the church's <u>website calendar</u>.



www.ourredeemers.net 2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117