

Second Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023 | 11 AM

Welcome!

It is a joy to worship together!

Advent is a season that offers a chance for us to slow down, breathe, and allow ourselves to be fully present to the moment. This year, allow Advent to be a time of renewal and sabbath away from the bustle of the season. Let the quiet of the sanctuary remind you that God walks with you through it all. You are invited to be fully present, here and now.

As we celebrate each of the four Sundays with peace, hope, joy, and love, we find ourselves becoming more anchored in Christ's coming, and ready for his light to scatter the shadows of the present time. Come to us, O Emmanuel!

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.

WORSHIP ONLINE OR BY PHONE (11:00 am service)

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. (Upgrade Zoom to the current version.)

All are Welcome to Communion! Christ hosts this meal, and ALL are invited to share this feast of life and forgiveness. We offer pre-packaged gluten-free/juice communion elements for those who prefer them. Our shared communion bread is gluten free, and we provide individual cups and grape juice for the health of everyone gathered. Children commune at the discretion of their parents. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. To receive communion at your seat, please alert an usher.

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.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Twas in the Moon of Wintertime by Don Freudenburg

from "First Organ Book" - Edited by Wayne Leupold, published by Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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;



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WELCOME AND SILENT PREPARATION

Ardene Adams and Cathy Fransson

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

*WREATH LIGHTING HYMN

Come to Us, O Emmanuel - by Marty Haugen

The Congregation will sing the words for the Refrain:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

*GREETING

The God of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, and the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace, 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 strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 Isaiah 40:1-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people:

Our ears and hearts are open.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

5Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

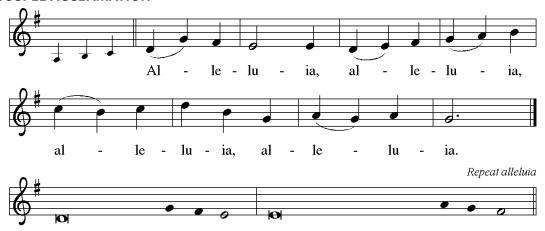
6A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
7The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
8The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

continued

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, $\;$

who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

KIDS' MESSAGE | SERMON

Pastor David Hahn





On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal, especially the waters of the Duwamish River and Puget Sound. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season, especially this congregation in our time of continued pastoral transition. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

*PEACE

May 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

GENEROSITY STORY

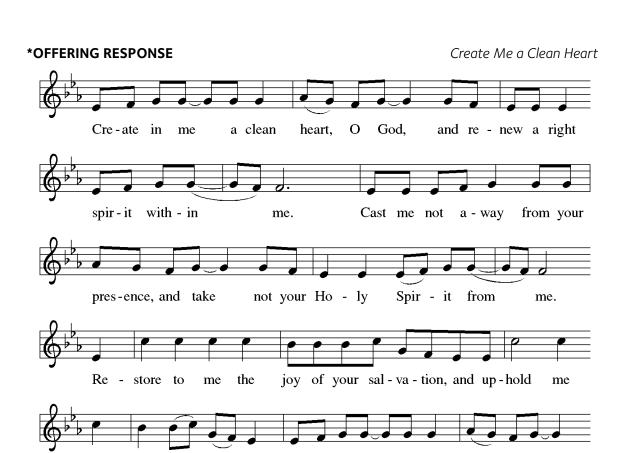
OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC Choir - Prepare Ye by Marc A. Robinson, Soloist - Eric Johnson

The choir repeats the refrain, "Hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying? Prepare ye, Prepare ye, Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The soloist sings three verses: 1. "First came the prophet crying in the wilderness, speaking to the people saying, 'One is coming both to judge and save, you must prepare the way of the Lord." 2. "Then came the Baptist crying in the wilderness, 'I baptise you with water, O – But one is coming who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." 3. "Now we join the crying in the wilderness, Let us lift up our voices saying, 'Come Lord Jesus now into our lives. Let us prepare the way of the Lord." The song begins and ends quietly, reprepenting a voice far off, and grows continually louder through the middle of the piece as the voice gets closer for us to hear.

Gifts may be made online at $\underline{www.ourredeemers.net/donate}$, or use this QR code:









Cre-ate in me

a clean heart, O God,

Spir - it.

with your free

*OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

We gather now at this table, where Christ is the host, and all are truly welcome. Many of us have experienced rejection at different times in our lives, and we come forward here knowing that we will not be turned away, but fully received and welcomed, even as we are.

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 version is 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

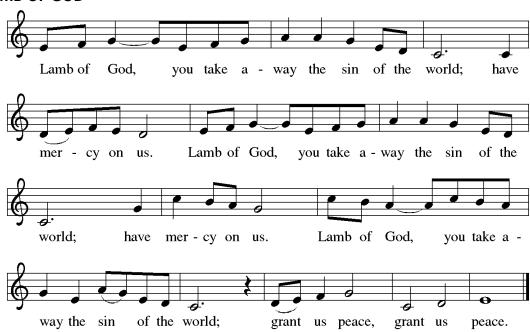
In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

All Are Welcome

to commune, including children (as parents permit).



LAMB OF GOD





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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

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit # remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Canon on 'Comfort, Comfort You My People by Wayne Leupold from "First Organ Book" - Edited by Wayne Leupold, published by Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.



We Pray for...

Kelsey Apt, Bill Best, Yvonne Boon, Lyle Brooks and parents, Jennifer Carter, Chris & Rusty Huffstetter, Helen Jones, Bob McIntyre, Barbara Olsen, Sally Parker-Henderson, Jean Perry, Frank Peters, Trina Prisk-Hall, Harold & Pauline Sigurdson, Carolyn Swanson, Charlotte Wallstrom, Janet Woodfield; all married couples struggling with conflict and separation, immigrant families remaining separated, Road to Housing guests.

Grieving the Loss of

June Pfeiffer

To include someone in the prayers, <u>email</u> the church -or- fill out the online prayer request form: <u>LINK</u>. (Requests received after each Wednesday will be put in the following week's bulletin.

IN OUR SERVICE TODAY

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor David Hahn Assistant Minister: Judith Malmgren Lector: Niels Running Communion Assistant: Linda Carbone Usher: Kris Rogness

Zoom Host: Erica Lee Musicians: Karen Lee, Our Redeemer's Choir

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Karie Stearns x101

Parish Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website or current newsletter.



worship

9 AM Informal Worship | In-person

In this hour-long service, an ensemble leads us in a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary music. We hear a challenging and thoughtful message, pray together and take communion. Children are welcome and, for the little ones, our staffed nursery is open.

11 AM Traditional Worship | In-person & Online

The 11:00 am service is liturgy deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition of God's living word. Join together in prayer, familiar hymns and communion at God's all-welcoming table. We wish one another peace and blessings and leave the service more connected, challenged and hopeful than before.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17, 11 AM

On December 17th, we will hold our annual Christmas pageant during the 11 worship service. Children of all ages are invited to participate. We have one rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 am. Roles and costumes will be assigned that day. The pageant is simple, and traditional, and is a lot of fun for everyone involved. Questions? Contact Erica Prentice at erica.a.prentice@qmail.com.

Blue Christmas

Tuesday, December 19, 7 PM

A mellow service for those who are dealing with loss at the holidays.

4 PM Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24

A brief service of lessons and carols with a special message for kids!

10 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24

With Handbells, Choir, and Orchestra

Christmas Eve Hand Bells & Orchestra

Bring your instrument or learn to play hand bells to festive Christmas carols! Instrumentalists will perform at Our Redeemer's at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24, 10:00 pm. **Practices are as follows:**

- Saturday, December 9 from 2:00–3:30 pm hand bells only
- Saturday, December 16 and
- December 23 from 2:00–3:30 pm hand bells and orchestra instruments Questions? Contact Karen Lee, <u>karen@ourredeemers.net</u>. Let Karen know you're participating, and she'll have a part ready for you!



faith formation

TRANSFORMING SPIRITUALITY

Sunday Youth Fall Faith Formation Classes

9 AM - Sprouts | Downstairs

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs

10 AM - Confirmation | Library

Advent Devotions: Consider and Celebrate

For Advent this year Stephanie Running has updated a devotional from 2020 that is downloadable in one document for you to follow throughout the season. It is called "Consider and Celebrate". <u>LINK to download the devotional</u> (https://rb.gy/nmfiyf). Hard copies are also available in the church office.

Adult Forums

Sundays, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Our Sunday Adult forums have two themes. All are welcome!

Parables: Hunting for Hidden Truths - December 3 & 17

We'll finish up this quarter's deep dive into Jesus' parables on December 3rd and 17th. In our western culture, we've been trained to view the Parables as moralistic fairy tales. But they were meant to be wrestled, teased apart, and ultimately to turn our conventional wisdom on its head; once coined "spiritual hand grenades." As Jesus said, "come and see..."

"Art Church" - December 10

One Sunday a month, we stop merely talking about God and experience God through different aspects of life: creativity, nature, and embodiment. On Sunday, December 10th we practice "Visio Divina," seeing the sacred in everyday life through photography. Come and see "the only known photograph of God."



social justice

A FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Our Redeemer's Giving Tree

Please take a tag from the Giving Tree in the narthex and give a gift to children and families in need from around Seattle.

Help Out at Ballard Sunday Dinner

Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) is a ministry in which we partner with local churches to feed our hungry neighbors on the third Sunday of each month. Please consider signing up to help out now that the weather is cooler. All needed roles have lots of availability, and we'll partner up with you until you're comfortable! Sign up by using this link: https://rb.gy/ea817. Reach out to Amy Borgmeyer (amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do!



community

A Women's Gathering

Monday (Tomorrow), December 4, 5 PM | Reuben's Brew's Ballard Are you looking to strengthen your connections with the women of Our Redeemer's? Join us at Reuben's Brews for an evening of engaging conversation, food, and beverages! The group size varies, ranging from a cozy 4 to a lively 12. Regardless of the number, you're sure to leave with a heart full of warmth! Reach out to Kari Guddal at (206)790-1780 or Connie Sandstrom at (206)375-5449 with any questions. Everyone identifying as a woman is welcome!

Luciafest!

Sunday, December 10, 5 PM | Our Redeemer's

Bringing the story of Sankta Lucia to life is a beloved tradition in Sweden and at Our Redeemer's each holiday season. Luciafest is a magical evening filled with all the traditional trappings: Sankta Lucia, her attendants, star boys, Scandinavian goodies, and dancing around the Christmas tree! Don't miss a traditional tåg (procession), festive music, food, dancing and costumes. Everyone is invited this holiday season! Let Lucia bring faith, hope, and a reason to believe in good things to come into your life.

Women's Retreat Next May

May 3-5, 2024 | Seabeck Conference Center

Anyone who identifies as female is invited on May 3-5th to Seabeck Conference center on Hood Canal. It's a time of building community, digging deeper, and finding inspiration in God and one another. The cost is \$290 for the entire weekend (full or partial Scholarships are available by request). A \$58 deposit is due at registration – registration extended through January. Paper registration forms are available in the church office, or fill out this Google form: https://forms.gle/KjrdpQF8ZhwNP3ez5.

Rest & Reset Retreat: Come Away with God

Friday, February 16 - Sunday, February 18 | North Bend, WA REGISTER In these times of such stress in our lives and world, it's more important than ever that we take care of ourselves. You're invited to our first ever adult Rest Retreat at Rainbow Lodge, a cozy cedar lodge at the base of Mt. Si in North Bend. Explore what Sabbath means, connect with God, and find rest for your mind, body and spirit. You'll have time to unwind, walk nature trails, participate in new spiritual practices, have fun, and most importantly...REST! The cost of the retreat for entire weekend and all meals will be \$290 (\$60 more to have a solo room). Register here: https://rb.gy/tgmb3i. The retreat is co-hosted by the following Lutheran churches: St. Matthew's, Faith Lutheran, and Our Redeemer's. Come all who are weary!

Holden Registration is Open!

July 14-21 | Holden Village REGISTER by December 31st
Do you long for time in nature, more time to spend with your fellow
parishioners, or a break from email and social media? Well, you're in luck!
Our Redeemer's is going to Holden Village next summer and registration is
now OPEN! Choose from a 5-day or 7-day stay. The cost is, 5-day: adult
\$685, child (over 4) \$480; 7-day: adult \$889, child (over 4): \$634.
Come to Holden this summer! Register using this LINK (https://rebrand.
ly/5174bf).

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17, 10 AM | Youth Room

All middle and high school youth are invited to celebrate the Christmas season in between services on December 17th. We'll meet in the youth room downstairs for games, Christmas treats, and a white elephant gift exchange! Please bring a wrapped gift (the goofier the better) under \$10 to participate in the white elephant. Questions? Email Mandy (welcome@ourredeemers.net).

Advent Sundays & Christmas Eve Help Needed

Celebrating the Advent season takes many hands and helpers at Our Redeemer's! We hope that you and your family might consider being a part of the ministry we offer together to our community. Each Sunday and in both our 4pm and 10pm Christmas Eve services, we need the following:

- Ushering: handing out bulletins, helping with offering and candles on Christmas Eve
- Greeting: Standing in the narthex with a smile and "welcome!"
- Communion Assistants: Setting up and serving communion
- · Technology: lighting & sound
- Readers in the services: reading Scripture or prayers

We welcome your gifts! <u>SIGN UP HERE</u> (https://rebrand.ly/bi8fvvc). Questions? Contact Mandy Neill (<u>welcome@ourredeemers.net</u>).

A leader is urgently needed for our February 2024 auction.

Here's your chance to be creative, collaborate with others, and help out the church! Contact welcome@ourredeemers.net for more information about our annual fun draiser and how you can help out!

Thank You!

As a thank you for your giving during our "Unashamed Generosity" campaign, we have a gift for you: a special metal ornament/bookmark created by Anne McGrew that is beautifully laser cut with Our Redeemer's name. This custom piece will be available to anyone who wants one on Sundays. Thank you for your generosity and enjoy your gift!



Poinsettias

Please donate by December 17

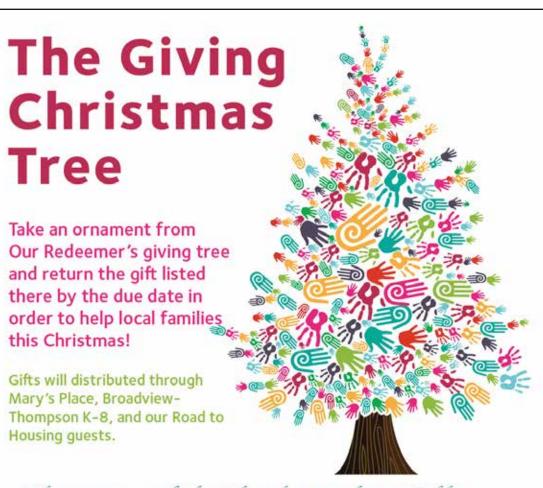
Donations are being collected for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas. Your donation may be given in memory of or to honor a loved one in your life. Donate any amount you wish in a flower envelope available at church or donate online: https://rb.gy/5z2fti.
Thank you!



Beer & Carols

December 12, 7 PM

Join our greater community for a joyous evening of singing and Christmas merriment in the Fellowship Hall! Everyone is invited!



"Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want."

This Week at Our Redeemer's

Today, Sunday, December 3 ADVENT 2

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation | Library

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall
11 AM - Traditional Worship

3 PM - Norwegian Women's Choir Concert | Sanctuary

Monday, December 4
5 PM - A Women's Gathering | Reuben's Brews

Tuesday, December 5
1:30 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - LiVE Synod-wide Bible Study | Zoom

Wednesday, December 6 6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 9 9 AM - Lucia Rehearsal 2 PM - Christmas Eve Bells Rehearsal

> Sunday, December 10 ADVENT 3

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person Downstairs

10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes | Downstairs

10 AM - Confirmation | Library

10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

5 PM - LUCIAFEST | Our Redeemer's

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

Christmas Season Events

Our Redeemer's Giving Tree

Take a tag to help give gifts to children and families in need from around Seattle.

Sunday, December 10, 5 PM Luciafest

Tradition at its best with Swedish Luciafest, Cookie Smorgasbord, and traditional dancing around the tree!

Tuesday, December 12, 7 PM Beer & Carols

Bring a beverage and sing all your favorites in the Fellowship Hall!

Sunday, December 17, 11 AM Christmas Pageant

Our children and youth tell the Christmas story.

Tuesday, December 19, 7 PM Blue Christmas

A mellow service for those who are dealing with loss at the holidays.

Sunday, December 24 4 PM Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

A brief service of lessons and carols with a special message for kids!

Sunday, December 24 10 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

With Handbells, Choir, and Orchestra

If you can help out during the season, let us know and we'll find a volunteer role for you. Contact Mandy at welcome@ ourredeemers.net if you can help.



www.ourredeemers.net

2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117