

MARCH 2023

our redeemer's
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

TheVisitor



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith



Holy Week Preview

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A Community in the Model of Christ

From the Pastor...



"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?" – Matthew 6

In March as the days finally grow longer and all the flowers start to bloom, hope can spring up in us that perhaps we too will blossom. We have been buried in the cocoon of the work of our transition for a while now, and we still have a ways to go. Our Call Committee is beginning their work with Pastor Andy Yee – assistant to the bishop from our synod office. We have been asked to pray for them daily as they meet and make decisions that will impact our life together, and how we navigate God's will for us in the world. That seems like a doable task, no?

Lent encourages introspection and observation. I love the passage from the Gospel of Matthew about worry, and how it reminds me to put things in perspective. I often feel there are things I can control, and things I can't. Mostly though, I can't.

And as Lent and Good Friday remind us, it's best to turn toward God and remember to put our trust in God's will, rather than our mortal wisdom.

As a congregation of people who have been brought together at this time and this place by the movement of God's spirit in our lives, it behooves us to take this season of Lent and this burgeoning of spring to pause, breathe, and settle. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Sit in the warm sun and be comforted. As you do, remember Jesus' time in the desert. Pray for stamina for yourself and this congregation.
- Get up close to a budding tree where you can see the brightness of the new life. Pray for the growth you are feeling as a person, and that we are feeling as a congregation.
- Walk near a body of water and listen to its movement. Pray that your spirit would be renewed for life and endurance.
- Help someone accomplish something that has no benefit for you. Pray, and remember how much God has done for you.

We are exactly where we are meant to be in this moment, and God is with us.



Blessed Lent!

Celebrating March Birthdays!

1	Marcia Cayton	8	Evan De Turk	19	Elena Malone
1	Max Germann	8	Joseph Gibson	19	Kara Niedner
1	Steve Rystrom	9	Pauline Sigurdson	21	Jim Arnold
2	Kris Rogness	10	Mary Simpson	22	Tom Bernard
3	Zeke Mertes	13	Elena Thompson	22	Chauntae Kukowski
3	Latife Neu	14	Adam Frantz	25	Diana Myers
4	Kyra Ege	14	Espen Sterner	27	Mary Peters
4	Julie Vannoy	15	Shannon Parks-Beck	27	Dave Skar
5	Jolyn Mason	17	Nancy Paulson	28	Marilyn McKenzie
7	Mike Jancola	18	*Patsy Baker	31	JD Forssen

**Birthday blessings to Patsy Baker who is celebrating a 90+ birthday this month.*

This Month at Our Redeemer's

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OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

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Phone: 206-783-7900

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

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.



March 1, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
March 2, Thursday	6:30 PM - LiVE Project: Interrogating Privilege Zoom 7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
March 5, Sunday LENT 2	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship Noon - Congregational Conversations Our Redeemer's 4 PM - The Journey
March 7, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom 6:30 PM - Executive Team
March 8, Wednesday	6 PM - Facilities Team 6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
March 9, Thursday	6:30 PM - LiVE Project: Interrogating Privilege Zoom 7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
March 11, Saturday	9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team
March 12, Sunday LENT 3	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 4 PM - The Journey
March 13, Monday	7 PM - Adult Faith Formation Book Study Zoom
March 14, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom 6:30 PM - Executive Team
March 15, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
March 16, Thursday	6:30 PM - LiVE Project: Interrogating Privilege Zoom 7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
March 19, Sunday LENT 4	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner Ballard First Lutheran 2 PM - Hand Bell Practice 4 PM - Madonna's Book Group Our Redeemer's 4 PM - The Journey
March 21, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom
March 22, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
March 23, Thursday	7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal
March 25, Saturday	1:30 PM - Hand Bell Practice; 2 PM Orchestra
March 26, Sunday LENT 5	9 AM - Informal Worship Sprouts: 9 AM In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation 10 AM - Adult Forum Fellowship Hall 11 AM - Traditional Worship 4 PM - The Journey
March 28, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - Synod-Wide Acts Study Zoom 7 PM - Council Meeting
March 29, Wednesday	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
March 30, Thursday	7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal



Worship and Music

Holy Week Preview

Holy Week this year will continue to be framed by our Lenten theme, "Seeking." As we search for our place in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, we pray for new insights into where we might find a new life where we thought there might only be suffering and death. Thanks be to God!

April 2: Palm/Passion Sunday - "Where Are You Headed?"

Beginning outside with palms and processing, we will then move into the sanctuary for the telling of the passion narrative and remember the story of Jesus' journey to the cross in love and loyalty to God and all of humanity. This service contains many emotions from joy and elation at the procession of the Humble King, to the agony of his death in the crucifixion.

April 6: Maundy Thursday - "Will You Wash My Feet?"

We will start our evening at **6:00 pm** with "Soup and Stories" - a potluck dinner of soup and homemade bread. Each family is invited to bring a pot of homemade soup from their family's history. Then we will share a story related to the soup. Following our meal, we will begin our liturgy with foot-washing, followed by communion and the stripping of the altar. This is a wonderful interactive service remembering the last supper of Jesus and his disciples.

April 7: Good Friday - "Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

7:00 pm - Our service of Tenebrae (Shadows) is a candlelight service remembering and reflecting on the last words of Christ through prayer, music, and silence. This moving service is deeply rooted in the tradition of the church, and is beautiful and moving.



April 7-8: Good Friday - 24-hour Prayer Vigil

Beginning at **noon on Good Friday, and continuing until noon on Holy Saturday**, we invite individuals to sign up to pray for an hour in our prayer chapel. It is a time to remember the world, pray for mercy and healing, and to find solace in our sanctuary. There is a deep sense of the sacred when one is praying in the dark and quiet of the middle of the night while we remember Christ's death and burial. Details about signing up will be coming soon.

April 9: Easter Sunday - "Who Are You Looking For?"

Sunrise Service - 6:30 am in Carkeek Park
Join us in the wee hours of the morning for a service of light and resurrection! We will welcome new members, celebrate holy baptism and communion, and rejoice and be glad. He is risen indeed! Contact Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) to help make this service happen - we need many hands.

Festival Easter Worship - 9:00 am & 11:00 am at Our Redeemer's

He is risen! Come and blow the trumpets, ring the bells, and spread the Good News! We worship with joy and thanksgiving at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Contact Karen Lee (karen@ourredeemers.net) to be part of the choir, handbells, or orchestra!

Easter Breakfast - 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Our Redeemer's

Warm yourself after the sunrise service with a hearty breakfast at Our Redeemer's! All are welcome, and proceeds benefit our trip to Confirmation Camp this summer. Volunteers are needed and welcome to help make this meal happen.

Easter Egg Hunt - 10:10 am at Our Redeemer's

All children are invited to bring a basket and hunt for eggs on our front lawn (weather permitting).



Worship and Music



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Lent: Seeking Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Throughout the Lenten season, we ask:
What am I seeking? What is God seeking?

This Lent, you're invited to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. Our Lenten theme can help you unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful.

We pray that the questions asked will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.



Easter Hand Bell Ensemble and Orchestra by Karen Lee, Traditional Worship and Music Director

Easter services at Our Redeemer's on Sunday, April 9, 2023! You are invited to play an orchestral instrument or hand bells for both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Even if you've never played hand bells before, I can arrange an easy part for you to learn how – it's fun! And if you play an instrument, it's wonderful to play in a group – join us! Rehearsals will be as follows:

Sunday, March 19
Hand Bells only
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Saturday, March 25
Hand Bells
1:30 – 2:30 pm
Orchestra
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Sunday, April 2
Hand Bells
1:30 – 2:30 pm
Orchestra
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Let's make a joyful noise for Easter!
Please contact me to let me know you're interested in participating. Karen Lee:
karen@ourredeemers.net

Cover Art: INSIGHT by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 9: 8–41, Silk painting with digital drawing and collage.

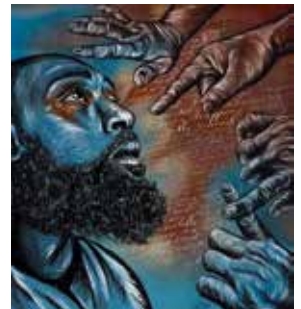
Artists' Statement: In seven verses, the gospel writer tells us that a man born blind is given sight. But after that, the narrator devotes thirty-three verses to the details of disagreement that swell after the healing takes place. I used to find this second part of the story tedious and exhausting. In a world with constant conflict, I'm tired of listening to endless bickering.

However, this second half of the story makes me realize that this encounter is hardly about physical healing or literal blindness. It's about how harmful theology can prevent us from seeing people—truly seeing them. It's about how our narrow imagination can harden into accusation and blame. It's about how we can be threatened by new ideas or shifts in someone's identity. It's about how our doctrine can lead to exile. Ultimately, it's a story about our resistance to change. Can this be a cautionary tale for us?

In this image, hands expressing denial and exclusion press in on the man. In the background, I wrote a barrage of questions I imagine emerging from the crowd: *Why did God heal you? What did you do to cause this? Who sinned? Alongside those questions, I wove in contemporary statements I've heard spoken in situations when we think a tidy rationale will comfort us: Everything happens for a reason. God only gives you as much as you can handle. Pray harder.*

I wonder what this story would look like had better questions been asked. What if his neighbors had instead asked the blind man, "How do you feel?" What if the man had asked the crowd, "What are you afraid of?" What if the Pharisees had asked one another, "What if it's time to change?"

Surrounded by remnants of narrow vision, the man has new insight. He looks beyond the words, beyond the crowd, beyond the accusations driving him out of town. Can we seek understanding without denigrating or objectifying humans in the process? – Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity





Living Generously

Our Redeemer’s Mission Budget

January 31, 2023
(58.33% thru the fiscal year)
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Income	2022-2023 Approved Budget	Year to Date Income as of 1.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
Envelope & Loose Offerings	520,073	289,629	55.7%	(13,746)
Church Use	85,000	56,235	66.2%	6,652
*Special Giving	-	202,282	-	-
Interest	1,000	251	25.1%	(333)
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)	\$632,073	346,115	54.8%	(22,594)
**TOTAL INCOME	\$632,073	548,397	86.8%	179,687
Expenses	2022-2023 Approved Budget	Year to Date Expenses as off 1.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$642,688	302,209	47.0%	(72,692)

* *Special Giving* denotes a one-time gift that was outside of regularly giving.

**The income line associated with the auction is removed as it will happen in February, the anticipated income from the auction is reflected in the total income budget.

Regular giving is below budget. Expenses are also below budget and are mostly attributed to understaffing while we work through the transition process. Removing the special one-time gift, the church’s expenses and income show a positive net profit of \$43,906. Expenses coming in at \$72,692 under budget contributed to this high net profit.

For questions/concerns-please contact Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns, and Treasurer, Erin Miller, at administrator@ourredeemers.net. Thank you for your support!

Congregational Conversations

Where are we now? Join us March 5th at noon for a general check-in about financials, our building, and the transition process. Your questions and concerns are welcomed and valued!

Coffee and cookies to be served.



Living Generously

“One Love” Auction: It Takes a Village

In February we celebrated another successful auction! With One Love as our theme, we had a wonderful party with tropical decorations, steel pan music, legos, food trucks, rum punch and YOU!

Thanks to all our donors that donated items or experiences or maybe even both, thanks to everyone that joined us at the event and to our bidders! We appreciate you for supporting our ministry and community. Every donation is a triple win – helping build community, finance ministry, and promote generosity.

Last November, when we started meeting to plan the 2023 auction, it was exciting to see all the people sitting around the table, brainstorming ideas. Together, we were committed to getting the job done to make the event a success, and it was!

Thanks to those who made this auction happen: A special and gracious thank you goes to **Pastor Gretchen** for leading us and being our co-MC for yet another year. To **Tim Hunter** for doing another wonderful job as auctioneer. **Connie Sandstrom** for taking charge of the bar. To **Linda Christenson** and **Margaret Berg** – they had us all in a tropical paradise with their decorating. Thank you, **Cindy Anderson**, for doing all that data entry, to **Debbie Lematta** who managed the wine grab and provided marketing and communications for the event. To **Stephanie Running** for pulling together such a sweet dessert dash (see photos below). **Joanna Elizondo** our silent auction basket queen – you rock! To **Paula Hlastala** for wrangling the kids, and **Phillipa Dugaw** for running the front on auction day, and organizing all the loose ends. Also, a big shout out to all our **“day of” volunteers** who helped with registration, running the bar, selling raffle tickets, and acted as spotters during the live auction and clean up. This could not be done without all of you stepping up. It truly takes a village!

We are a blessed congregation. The final amount raised: \$39,000 with \$10K of that going to our “Fund-a-Need” for new paraments and liturgical dressing for the sanctuary. These donations support Our Redeemer’s and our mission. Thank you!





Faith Formation

Confirmation Class Tackles Questions of Faith

by The Confirmation Team

The confirmation class has continued to explore Jesus' life and Lutheran theology tackling questions such as the meaning of evil, salvation by grace, and how this all relates to our lives today. Students have engaged in conversations about the legalistic view of salvation in the Old Testament, and the path to salvation through Jesus in the New Testament. For example, in discussing the concept of 'who is our neighbor', we highlighted a stark difference in Jesus teaching the 2nd most important commandment is "love thy neighbor," as opposed to the legalistic view guiding the 10 commandments listed in the Old Testament.

Whenever possible we guide the topics, relating to current events, social and economic issues, and other topics of concern the class has shared with us. These discussions are enriched by the varied thoughts, opinions, and lived experiences each youth brings to class. The confirmation team approaches these conversations as a blend of facilitator, information giver, and even questioner, with respect given that these youth are on their own faith journey's, and growing in their individual relationships with God.

- Michael Hammett, Stephanie Fowler, Pastor Gretchen



THE LiVE PROJECT
living into vocational engagement

The LiVE Project is a ministry of the NW WA Synod, and Proudly engaged in emerging partnership with Trinity Education Foundation who provided a generous grant of \$50,000 for the 2023 calendar year.

March LiVE Project Opportunities

Interrogating Privilege

Class meets weekly 6:30pm - 8pm on Zoom
Thursdays - March 2, 9, 16

This mini-course is designed specifically for lay leaders to open up transparent, and honest conversations around the ways privilege shapes and impacts our lives and communities of faith. **If you've read anti-racist books, and are looking for the next, best steps as an individual or congregation, this course offers additional ways to move forward.** Participants will also have an option to explore their own bias through the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Participants must register through the following link to receive Zoom access: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwkc-Cupj4uGNl0k1c9c9G4fEd4DO1k0a_N

Synod-Wide Acts Study

Class meets weekly on Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm on Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting: ID - 822 0985 0836, Passcode - Acts

Travel as a Spiritual Act with Rick Steves

Sunday, March 5, 6:30 pm Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm Rick Steves | Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, 7500 Greenwood Ave. N.

For Rick Steves the best souvenir is to come home with a vivid understanding that, if you believe in God, you know that we are all children of God, brothers and sisters, and by traveling we get to know the family.

In this presentation, Rick shares how travel can be a force for peace, how we learn more about our home by leaving it, and how the road can be church. He will draw from experiences ranging from Guatemala to India, Ethiopia to Iran, and throughout Europe. This event is free and open to all.





Faith Formation

STELLAR VBS: Helps Kids Shine a Light on Jesus' Love!

Join us August 7-11 from 9 am-12 pm every day. We are launching kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun. Each day at Stellar VBS, one memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, and kids delve into field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures. Make sure to mark your calendars and register your kids for Stellar VBS! Blasting off August 7! **Download the registration form** or fill out this one and return to Pastor Gretchen.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

August 7-11 9 am – 12 pm

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CHILD'S INFO (Open to ages 4- 11):

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

St Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN(S):

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Additional Authorized Pick Up People: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO:

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Relation: _____

ALLERGIES AND/OR MEDICAL NEEDS:

HOME CHURCH: _____

NAME OF A FRIEND YOUR CHILD MIGHT LIKE TO BE WITH: _____

PHOTO RELEASE FORM:

I hereby, authorize Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church (ORLC), to publish the photographs taken of me and/or the above mentioned minor children and our names, for use in the ORLC printed publications, website or social media.

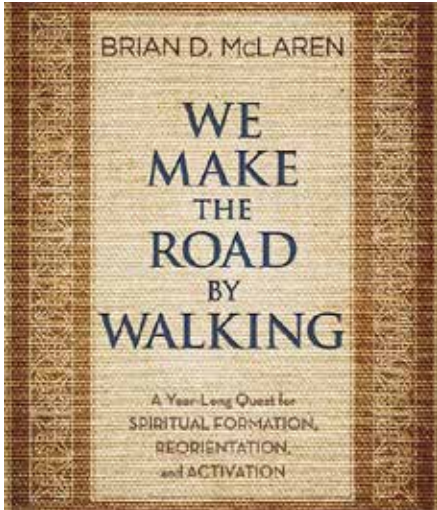
I give permission, to ORLC to copyright, use and publish the photographs of my child with or without names for any lawful purpose, including illustrations, advertising and web content. I release, all claims against ORLC with respect to ownership and publication including any claims of compensation.

I confirm that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor child(ren) and have the authority to authorize to use their photographs and names.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____



Faith Formation



McLaren Book Discussion Group

Mondays, 7 PM, thru April 3 | [Zoom](#)

Are you interested in discussing any of the following:

- March 6 – The birth of Jesus and details you may have missed
- March 13 – John the Baptist and the wilderness testing like you've never heard it before
- March 20 – Why miracles and what is the "Kingdom of God" anyways?
- March 27 – Is there a Hell? and problematic passages in the Gospel
- April 2 – Sermon on the Mount – new perspectives

Anyone is welcome to join the discussion whether or not you have joined before. Email Mandy Neill, welcometo@ourredeemers.net for a copy of that week's reading chapters.

Join us for an Easter egg hunt of sorts as we search these well-known stories for NEW and exciting treasure!

Zoom Link: <https://rb.gy/vvc6qg>; Meeting id: 872 0474 6428; Passcode: 096864.

There's Still Time to Join in "The Journey"

The Journey is a class and a conversation, as we learn more together about what being Lutheran and a part of Our Redeemer's means. Participants meet in large and small group settings during the season of Lent. **Each week, we focus on a different area of ministry, theology, and growth as people of faith.** We'll get to know other participants in small groups, as well as each being paired with a long-time member of the congregation.

Regardless of whether you become a member or not, the Journey is a wonderful way to become more fully involved in this church family. No strings attached.

To register to participate, please contact Mandy Neill, our Welcome Minister, at welcometo@ourredeemers.net. Childcare will be made available if the need is indicated.



Madonna's Book Group
 Sunday, March 19, 4 PM.
 Location TBD.
 The book to be discussed is **THE NARROWBOAT SUMMER** by Anne Youngson.
 All are welcome to join in!
 Madonna's Book Group meets to review books, support each other, and share personal journeys.
 Contact Lynne at buckomcneill@yahoo.com if you wish to join in.



Social Justice



Save the Date: Recycling Roundup May 13

Start collecting your Styrofoam, packing peanuts, mobile phones and laptops for recycling!

It's an Earth Day and Mother's Day celebration with our neighborhood and Northminster Presbyterian Church, too.

Electronic items include: laptop, desktop and monitors, mobile phones and tablets, servers, cables, software and accessories, modems and routers, office phones, telecom systems, game consoles, iPods and MP3s and printers and Ink toners. Questions or a day of event volunteer? Please contact Connie Sandstrom, conniesandstrom05@gmail.com.



Ballard Sunday Dinner Needs You!

Ballard Sunday Dinner had a wonderful impact on our community, serving more than 325 meals in 2022! Each time we host, it takes a team of 5-10 people and we so couldn't do it without all of you. Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping us to turn our values into actions for the life of the world! We partner with other area churches to ensure neighbors who may be struggling have access to a hot meal on Sunday nights. If you have any of the following skills (planning, cooking, serving, greeting, opening doors, cleaning), we want you to come join us - sign up here and come have some fun! <https://rb.gy/dkvefb>

Robert and Roberta were Road to Housing guests with Our Redeemer's over the past few months. They were successful housed in mid-February and now live in an apartment in Rainier Valley near a light rail station! Robert wrote this note of reflection a few days before he left.

Having spent 9 of the 15 years in Seattle HOMELESS, I consider myself experienced.

There are a million reasons one might end up with nowhere to sleep. I've heard many. My life as I now understand it reveals to Robert, the person, a fundamental truth. Too many days and nights spent in line at SHELTERS all around Seattle to get my scratchy wool emergency blanket and settle in next to street folk.

It's been such a blessing to have spent time at Our Redeemer's fellowship hall. I feel lucky. There is a spirit of love, truth, and beauty alive and awake in my heart that I don't believe I would have discovered without this sanctuary.

THANK YOU. Robert



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

return service requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Service

in-person

11 AM Traditional Service

in-person & online

Stream Online at 11 AM

Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemers)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

Church office hours:

Monday-Thursday

10 AM - 3PM



Holy Week

April 2 "Where Are You Headed?"
Palm/Passion Sunday

April 6, 6 PM "Will You Wash My Feet?"
Maundy Thursday

April 7 "Why Have You Forsaken Me?"
7 PM Good Friday Worship

April 7-8, Noon-Noon
Good Friday 24-hour Prayer Vigil

April 9, Easter "Who Are You Looking For?"

6:30 AM - Sunrise Service in Carkeek Park

9:00 & 11:00 am - Festival Easter Worship,
Our Redeemer's

8:00 am - 10:00 am - Easter Breakfast,
Our Redeemer's

10:10 am Easter Egg Hunt, Our Redeemer's



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