

MAY 2020



# The Visitor



Special Section:  
“Faith & Spiritual  
Resources for  
Trying Times”  
by Our Redeemer’s Staff



A Community in the Model of Christ

All Our Redeemer's building facilities are closed to non-essential activities until further notice. Staff members are working remotely and can be contacted by email or by calling 206 783 7900.

# Contents

FROM THE PASTOR 3

WORSHIP & MUSIC 4

FAITH FORMATION 6

COMMUNITY 8

BUILD THE VISION 10

SOCIAL JUSTICE 11

FAITH RESOURCES 12

THANK YOU'S 17

CALENDAR 19

*On the Cover: A screenshot of Our Redeemer's community of worshipers during this year's virtual Easter service.*

## Our Redeemer's Giving Options

*Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate whatever you can do.*

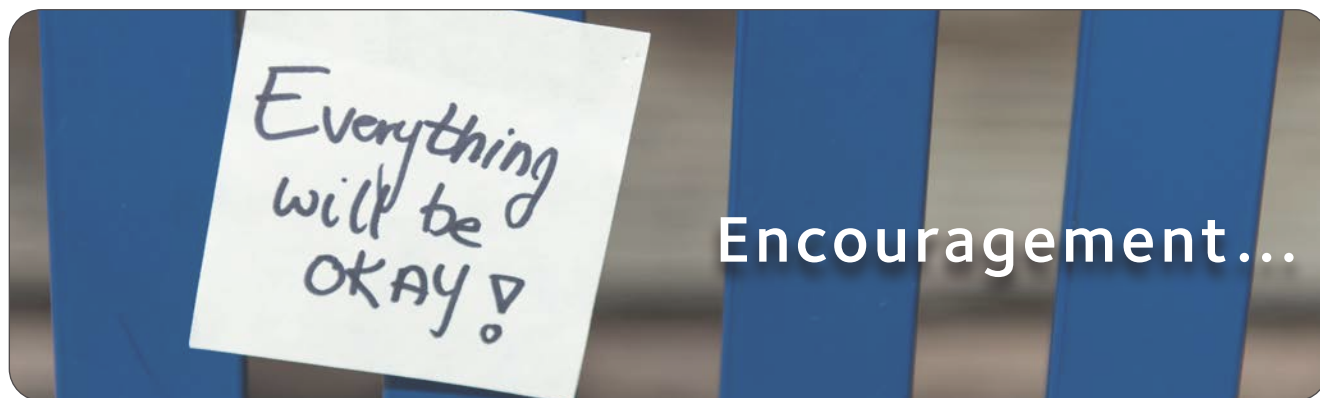
- 1. Online Giving.** Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net) and click on the "Donate" button on the upper right hand of home page to see online giving options,  
-or-  
Contact Parish Administrator Karie Stearns ([administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net) , 206-783-7900 x107) and she can get you set-up or make changes to existing accounts.
- 2. Mobile Giving App.** Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus+ Church" to download for FREE.
- 3. Give-by-Text.** From your smart phone, enter the 10-digit number: 206-717-8465 and the amount you wish to donate, then press send.
- 4. Mail a Check.** Make a check out and mail to *Our Redeemer's*, c/o Karie Stearns, and or deliver to the church, 2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle, 98117.



- Katherine Hawks, Pastor [kathyh@ourredeemers.net](mailto:kathyh@ourredeemers.net)
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor [pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net)
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net)
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
- Shannon Beck, Interim Social Justice Coordinator
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coordinator & Co-Welcome Minister
- Amy Hammett, Co-Welcome Minister
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

2400 NW 85th St. • Seattle, WA 98117 • 206-783-7900 • [www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net) • [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net)

## From the Pastor...



*Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.*

*With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.*

*There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

*There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. (Acts 4:32-37)*

This reading was part of my devotions this morning.\*

It's a description of the earliest Christians. Believing the resurrection of Jesus truly had happened, they formed an exceptional community. They shared freely all they had, received freely when they were in need, and freely shared the stories of how they were seeing God was raising up new life in and all around them.

My favorite part of the passage is Joseph, nicknamed Barnabas – which means 'son of encouragement.' I can picture Barnabas clearly – maybe because I've met him so many times in the kind word, the perceptive glance that tells me I or another have been seen or appreciated, the willingness to go a second mile, the sturdy forbearance with another's foibles, the faithful year-in and year-out commitment to putting others first, that weathers the best of times and the worst of times.

In other words, Barnabas is us. Now more than ever.

I like the questions my devotion posed. I invite you to take a moment to ponder them:

*Perhaps you are missing meeting with your church in person at the moment. Share with the Lord now all the things for which you are grateful about your Christian community.*

*A key idea seems to be sharing. Those with plenty give freely to support those in need. Recall times when this kind of sharing has formed part of your own Christian discipleship.*

*Joseph...is nicknamed... "son of encouragement". Are you able to be an encouraging son or daughter to those around you? Or is there someone you can think of who encourages you in this way?*

*For a moment or two speak to God about how you might help to build up [your community] today.*

What hopeful reminders! Even though we're separated, you and I can be "sons and daughters of encouragement" to our neighbors and to one another, freely sharing and receiving encouragement, gifts, and grace.

Just like the earliest Christians, Our Redeemer's is an Easter community – living in the hope because Jesus has been raised and is present with us now. And just like that community, I see "great grace is upon us all".



Thanks be to God! Christ is risen!  
Alleluia!

*Katharine H. Hawk*

Pastor Kathy

\*Pray as You Go app.



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC



*Pastor Gretchen's virtual worship service setup on Sunday, April 26th. The 11am service was live streamed from her office at the church.*

## How to Remotely Worship on Sundays at 11am

*Each Sunday we will be gathering online at 11:00am. There are three ways to do this.*

**By Facebook Live.** Simply go to [www.facebook.com/ourredeemers](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemers). You don't have to have a Facebook account – it's a public channel.

**By Phone.** call 1 669 900 9128 , and then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method only lets you listen, but it works well, and is less technologically fraught.

**By Zoom.** Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>. The link works from 10:45am – 12:15pm every Sunday.

Katlin, our Welcome Minister, will be monitoring the chat and make sure that our worship leaders know what questions you have. The bulletin for Sunday will be available on our website for download at [www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/](https://www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/).

If you have questions about live-streaming, please email [Pastor Gretchen](mailto:PastorGretchen@ourredeemers.net) or [Katlin](mailto:Katlin@ourredeemers.net) and they will do our best to help.

## Prayer Chain: Do You Have a Prayer Request?

Are you feeling particularly anxious or concerned right now, and would appreciate someone praying for you or with you? Our Redeemer's has a wonderful group of people dedicated to praying for any and all concerns or joys in our community. In these times when prayer is such a comfort and strength, these folks are available for all of us.

You can:

- Email or call Mary Peters at [maryinballard@msn.com](mailto:maryinballard@msn.com), 206 784-8403
- Email, call or text Valerie Tung at [valolin@gmail.com](mailto:valolin@gmail.com), 206-999-8318 (best times: 10om-midnight)
- Eric Olson at [ericolson33@msn.com](mailto:ericolson33@msn.com) 206-713-4379
- Linda Carbone [lindac19@comcast.net](mailto:lindac19@comcast.net) 206-783-2476
- Stephanie Running [ewrunning@earthlink.net](mailto:ewrunning@earthlink.net) 206 551-8695



And, of course, your pastors are available by phone, text, or email. God's peace be with you!

# **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

## Informal Ensemble Record Release

With great excitement, we announce the release of the Informal Ensemble's new recording, **"Advent, Epiphany, Lent: Settings for the Beginning of the Liturgical Year"**. A full year has been spent recording, mixing, and mastering to create this record, and it took two years prior to that to write all the original tunes. The record focuses on the liturgical parts created for the seasons of Advent, Epiphany and Lent from our Informal Service. We've used the songs in services for a few years, and now you can take them with you!

**Where to find the record:** iTunes, Amazon Music, Spotify, and everywhere electronic music is downloadable or stream-able carries the album. Just search for "The Informal Ensemble." The recording is also available on our church's [Soundcloud page](#). If you are hoping for a hard copy (like a CD), please let [Pastor Gretchen](#) know, and we will try and make that happen for you!

**PLEASE SHARE THIS MUSIC EVERYWHERE!** The main point of this recording is to share it. This is a fantastic tool for taking the great stuff inside our church walls to the outside of our church walls! You can email it, text it, share it on social media, and generally let everyone know how great the music at the informal service at your church is. And maybe, if you invite them, they might come check it out sometime! We also hope that churches in other places will want to use some of our music, and so feel free to tell your friends from other places as well! There is NO COST to this record. It's free (thanks to our generous donors)!

**These are the credits of folks who did what and made this record happen:**

Lacey Brown, tambourine, vibes, claps, and bells

Nick Brown, vocals

Sheila Carey, vocals

Scott Chrisman, electric guitar

John DeTurk, bass

Mitchell Fund, drums

Betsy McGregor, piano, vocals

Gretchen Mertes, acoustic guitar, vocals, organ,  
accordion

Terrence Rindler, electric guitar, vocals

Steven Rystrom, penny whistle, mandolin, vocals

Engineer: Lacey Brown

Mix: Lacey Brown at Nervous Breakdance Studios

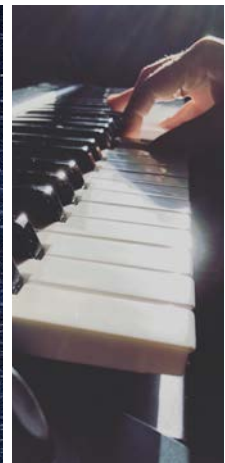
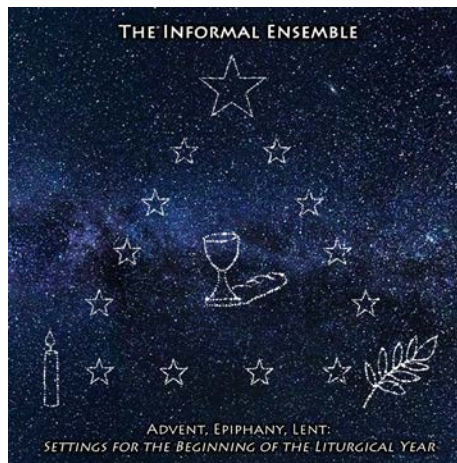
Master: Rachel Field at Resonant Mastering

Album Art: Jonath Ochs

All songs written by

Gretchen Mertes and Mitchell Fund

**A huge thanks for all those who were involved, especially to those of you who funded this recording with the gift of money through our annual auction! Your generosity is astounding.**



*Terrence Rindler, Steven Rystrom, Mitchell Fund, John DeTurk, Scott Chrisman, and Betsy McGregor.*



# FAITH FORMATION

## Faith Formation Update by Betsy McGregor, Faith Formation Team Facilitator

In April the Faith Formation Team met for an in depth discussion of our vision and long term goals for Faith Formation at Our Redeemer's. We used a variety of tools to help us with our work. Documents such as our Strategic Plan, the recent Vitality Survey results, conversations with members who were at Holden Village last July and vital input from Pastor Kathy and Pastor Gretchen informed our decisions. Together with our consultant, Jim La Doux, we believe we have a clear path forward in supporting Faith Formation for all members of our church. Central to our goals is supporting a habit of faith practices beyond Sunday worship, particularly for youth and families with young children. With the current situation regarding COVID-19, planning specific events and opportunities is difficult. With this in mind, we have some things we look forward to rolling out to the church in the near future and will announce them as they are confirmed.

## Circles of Connection

Our pastors are working to form up intentional groups of folks to stay connected to each other. Groups will meet by zoom at set weekly dates and times (as they schedule individually). Each group will have the following purpose:

- Check in – remind each other of your names, and then answer one question to help you know each other well.
- Dig deep – Join in conversation around a short list of questions based on the pastor's sermon from the previous Sunday.
- Pray – Pray extemporaneously or using a set prayer from a list of choices. Include specific prayer requests from within your group.
- If you would like to be part of a group, or lead a group, please [email Pastor Kathy](#) or [Pastor Gretchen](#), and we will be in touch very soon!

## Groups/Classes/Meetings on Zoom

Katlin Dickenson-Laurence, our office guru and welcome minister extraordinaire, has been working to create Zoom meetings for each group that regularly meets at church for whom meeting virtually makes sense. That schedule is the same schedule as the times you had been meeting in person.

The groups we are scheduling are as follows: Theology on Tap, Road2Housing, Caring Community Team, Choir, Madonna's Book Group, Men's Breakfast, Life Masters, Staff Meeting, Faith Formation Team, Church Council, Executive Committee, Social Justice Team, Traditional Worship Team, Generosity Team, Vision Aligned Building Team, our new Circles of Connection, and Faith Formation classes (see next page).

If your group isn't listed here, and you would like a zoom meeting scheduled, please contact Katlin at [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net).





# FAITH FORMATION

## Faith Formation via Zoom



### Sprouts – Sundays at 9:30am

Three, four and five year olds are invited to join us for a 30 minute gathering on Zoom each Sunday. We will have a song, a story, and a craft together! Mr. Dana and Ms. Jessica will be your host, along with a pop-in from Pastor Gretchen. Enjoy seeing each other's faces, and saying hello. What a great tool to stay connected! If you would like the link to join in the fun, please contact Pastor Gretchen.



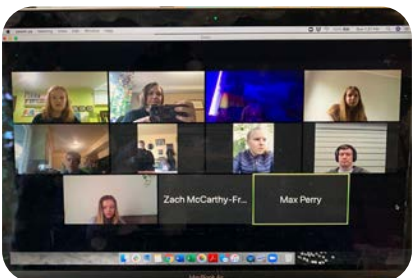
### Exploring Faith – Sundays at 10am

Kindergarteners through 4th graders are invited to come to the Exploring Faith Zoom hang out with Mr. Harold and Mr. Matt on Sundays at 10am. We will gather for 30 minutes to hear a story, and maybe do a fun craft or sing a song! If you would like the link to join in, please email Pastor Gretchen.



### Connect – Sundays at 10am

Our fifth and sixth graders are having a Zoom drawing class on Sundays at 10am for 30 minutes, with a check-in and fun times. We will listen to a Bible story, and share what we are inspired to draw! If your kid is interested in drawing and hanging out, just email Pastor Gretchen for the Zoom link.



### Confirmation Sundays at 1pm

On Sundays at 1pm, our Confirmation students will Zoom in to check in, and have some 'thinks' about the sermon from the 11:00 Zoom worship service, and pray together for each other. In strange times like these, familiar faces and a prayer can make a big difference in your days! Email Pastor Gretchen if your 7th or 8th grader is interested in participating.



Email Pastor Gretchen ([pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net)) to get the Zoom meeting number for any of these classes.

*Livestreamed Faith Formation on Sunday,  
April 26: Confirmation (top) and Sprouts.*



## COMMUNITY



### Friendship Calls

Our Caring Community Team is creating a list of some of the more vulnerable members of our community (folks over 60 and those who are immune compromised), and coordinating Friendship Calls to check in and remain connected to folks who are truly isolated during this time. If you would like to participate in our Friendship Calls, please contact Linda Carbone at [lindac19@comcast.net](mailto:lindac19@comcast.net).



### Intergenerational Pen Pals

Pastor Gretchen and Mandy Neill have started working together to pair some of our younger folks with people who might like to receive some creative mail and maybe form a pen-pal relationship. If your young person would like to give it a try, or if you're someone who would love to receive some mail from a kid, please contact Mandy or Pastor Gretchen and we'll get you some details. [neillmandy@gmail.com](mailto:neillmandy@gmail.com) or [pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net).



### Give to the Food Bank by Tom Bernard

The Ballard Food Bank is continuing to serve our hungry neighbors during this crisis, though in a slightly different format. Instead of allowing clients to shop our grocery model, as we've been doing for many years, we have prepacked bags of food that we offer to clients and then amazing volunteers that augment those bags with meat, cheese, produce, sandwiches etc... This allows us to service the specific dietary needs of clients while reducing the amount of social interaction.

If you're wanting to help out, the Food Bank could really use more volunteers. Monetary donations, as well, are very much appreciated as those enable us to be nimble and buy what we specifically need. There is also an Amazon wish list on the website if you'd like to check that out as well. Go to [ballardfoodbank.org](http://ballardfoodbank.org) to find out more.



### Helping with Worship by Pastor Gretchen

We would love to have your talents and abilities through our online services! If you would like to read scripture, pray the prayers, or sing a song of special music, you can totally do that! And it would be a gift to our community. Simply contact Pastor Gretchen ([pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net)) or Karen Lee ([karen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:karen@ourredeemers.net)) with your ideas or desires to help, and we'll plug you in, gratefully! Kids and youth are encouraged to participate, as well as folks of all ages. You don't have to be a professional, or even polished. God loves gifts that are offered with heart. Thank you for thinking of ways to participate!





## COMMUNITY

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Jennifer Kremer	12	AJ Schoolcraft	22	Steven Jones
4	Mia Brady	12	Edwin Woodfield	23	Kathy Hendricks
4	Victoria Hunter	13	Shelbe Kukowski	23	Eric Running
5	Lena Rindler	13	*Ernie Templin	25	Emilie Purvine
5	Angela Beranek	15	Jean Hall	28	Matteo Lowe
6	Megan Gleeson	16	Jodi Somm	28	Colin Neu
6	Cyanne Tung	17	Henrik Meyer	29	Christine Anderson
8	Carolyn Davis	18	Stephen Kaimmer	29	Megan Richmond
9	Kim Smith	19	Linda Carbone	30	David Neu
10	Margaret Berg	21	Brian Butler	31	Shirley Holt
11	Anita Lewis	21	Elaine Stevens	31	Olivia Rallo
11	*June Pfeiffer	22	Sonja Braasch		
11	Logan McCarthy-Fredericks	22	Malaika Dugaw		

*\* Celebrate those who are 90+!*

## Please Support Ballard P-Patch's Fundraising Efforts

Our Redeemer's supports the Ballard P-Patch in their efforts to raise money to Save the P-Patch. Can you help? Start by going to [www.mightycause.com/organization/Ballard-P-Patch](http://www.mightycause.com/organization/Ballard-P-Patch). Check out all the different ways you can participate to give the gnome a home!

### Save the P-Patch.



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church urges you to support Ballard P-Patch in their efforts to save this vital community garden.

Donate today:

[saveballardppatch.org](http://saveballardppatch.org)

# BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

## VAB Monthly Update

Our renovation continues to push forward through the COVID-19 restrictions. SHKS Architects has finalized the drawings and LZL Construction will be bidding the work in late April, early May. The City of Seattle is nearing completion on the building permit review and it is anticipated the permit will be issued in May. The sale of the P-Patch is progressing and although fundraising for them has become more challenging, they received a \$250,000 grant from “Washington State Local Projects” and submitted their application for the King County Conservation Futures Grant.



The Vision Aligned Building (VAB) project has its own new page on the Church website: <https://ourredeemers.net/about/build-the-vision/>. The intent is to use this page to keep everyone up to date on the design progress, schedule, budget, opportunities for involvement, and construction.

Marceau Pipe Organ Builders has been working with the Church over the past month to refine their scope of work and design for the new design. The organ will be completely removed from the building and taken to their shop for refurbishment. The new organ will be installed with the console on the chancel and the pipes in the reduced balcony.

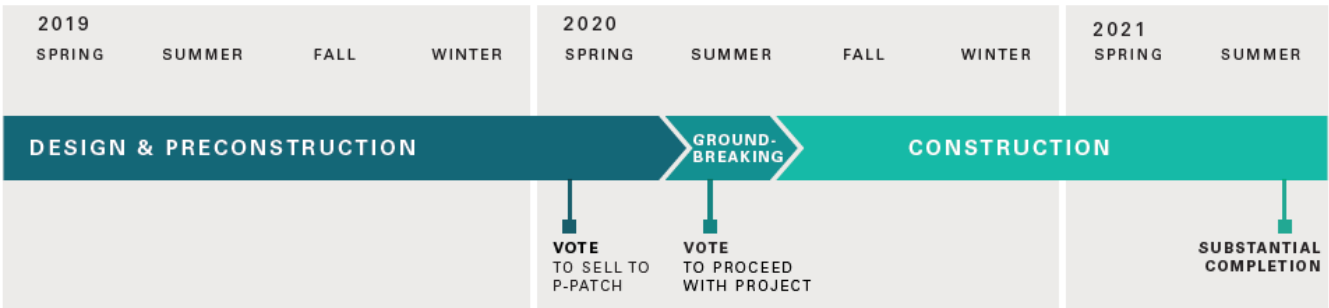
The team is also working on proposals for design and installation of the new Audio-Visual systems for the building. These will include projectors, screens, and a sound system in the sanctuary, as well as some A/V equipment in small meeting rooms and the fellowship hall.

### Budget

The council approved the budget for the overall project in February 2020 and there have been no significant changes, only minor adjustments to date.

### Schedule

Assuming some resolution on the COVID-19 issues and the sale of the P-Patch per the terms of the PSA (close by 7/15/2020), construction could start as early as July/August of 2020 and finish early to mid-summer 2021.



Our ongoing thanks to our Vision-Aligned Building Team, to [Karie Stearns](#), our administrator, and [Brandy Fox](#), our owner's rep. We have an amazing team! Feel free to contact any of them with your questions.





## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Be a Good Neighbor Recycling Event

Saturday, May 16, 11am-2pm

Our Redeemer's Parking Lot | 2400 NW 85th Street, Seattle

Recycle unwanted electronics, styrofoam, bicycles, gently used clothing, lawn mowers, batteries, and prescription eye glasses at Our Redeemer's!

Open to the public!

It's time to organize your home and pass on of all those unwanted electronic items, styrofoam, clothing,, and more. On Saturday, May 16th, we'll be collecting clean, dry styrofoam (please remove all tape and labels; no hot tub covers, insulating foam or anything that is dirty, please). E-cycle your unused laptops, phones, software accessories, and more. Gently used clothing will be collected for donation to Mary's Place and the Bridge Care Center. ALSO, cash donations for the P-Patch are welcome!

Recycling is FREE.

Can you help out? Contact [outreach@ourredeemers.net](mailto:outreach@ourredeemers.net) to lend a hand.



*Note: We will be practicing safe social distancing at this event. More details to come.*

## Ballard Sunday Dinner

Sunday, May 17th

Ballard First Lutheran Church

Volunteers need for May and June dinners. If you're interested in giving a helping a neighbor in need, please [sign up today](#). Thank you!



# FAITH & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR TRYING TIMES

## by Our Redeemer's Staff



Contributed by [Pastor Kathy Hawks](#)

Do you set aside time for prayer? Here are some resources for you to explore and use during our trying times. Blessings on your time with God.

- **Pray As You Go:** An app with a daily 10-14 minute music/scripture/prayer prompt, but also prayer tools for breathing, special prayer focuses on anxiety, loneliness, insomnia, etc. The readers have lovely, (usually) non-stuffy voices.
- **Christ in Our Home Devotions:** With this current health crisis, some people may be without a physical copy of Christ in Our Home. To assist with devotional life during this time, a limited-time complementary email subscription is being offered. Sign up and receive the daily devotional to your email for the remainder of March and April 2020. Sign up [here](#).
- **Unfolding Light** **Unfolding Light** is a daily reflection (weekdays) by Steve Garnaas-Holmes rooted in a contemplative, Creation-centered, justice-oriented spirituality. [unfoldinglight.net](#).
- **Celtic Christianity and Music Facebook Group:** They describe themselves as "a Sanctuary with a Celtic soul. We hope to encourage you with posts that reflect God in our world. Through music. Through prayers both new and ancient. Through poetry and prose. ....a community of care...celebrating and living out the unconditional love Christ has for all creation."
- **Centering Prayer App:** Create your own quiet time, with an opening prayer, beginning sound (lute, gong, bells, etc.) how long you would like to enter silence, and then an ending sound to let you know when the time is complete.
- **Our Redeemer's Spiritual Life-hack Group:** Not specifically for prayer, but frequently inspirational. And perhaps we can share what prayer practices and prayers are especially helpful to us right now.

How about you? What prayer resources do you use that you would like to share? Please forward them to me, [Pastor Hawks](#), and we will figure out a way to share them more broadly.



Contributed by Parish Administrator, [Karie Stearns](#)

I found a resource that I really like and works for me:

**TIME.** Thankfulness, Information/Growth, **M**ediation, **E**xercise.

I love the acronym. I can remember it. And I can make time.

# FAITH & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR TRYING TIMES

## by Our Redeemer's Staff



Contributed by [Karen Lee](#),  
Traditional Worship and  
Music Director

During this time, I've been learning a lot of new technology – for teaching online at school and for providing music for worship at home. Some of the learning has been pretty challenging, but when there's a chance to be creative, that's been uplifting for me. Here are a few of those creative endeavors:

Learning how to harmonize with myself:

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.lee.3954546/videos/3330323950313454/>

Playing some classical music:

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.lee.3954546/videos/3266922546653595/>

Getting to sing with my daughter:

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.lee.3954546/videos/3280854911927025/>

And playing some Gospel blues:

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.lee.3954546/videos/3279046802107836/>

Wishing you chances to explore creative opportunities you enjoy, too.



Contributed by [Debbie Lematta](#), Communications  
Coordinator.

My main inspirational activity lately includes a lot of walking!

- Dog Walks – a dog is my saving grace. She gently forces me to get out and walk among the trees or along any soothing body of water. I sometimes even drive to a local park (sorry Governor Inslee) and walk where people are not. A dog is good enough company for me. Don't have a dog? Here's a [good article](#) debating the pros and cons of adopting a pet in these trying times for those who are considering the physical and psychological benefits of bringing a new pet into the family.
- Tree Walks – trees can be very comforting neighbors and getting to know them by name is a great intellectual and learning activity for adults and kids. Did you know that the City of Seattle has a Tree Ambassador program? Tree Ambassadors (I am trained as one) are citizens who want to make a positive difference within Seattle's urban forest. The ambassadors also create Tree Walks around the city for people to learn in depth about the trees in different neighborhoods. Discover fascinating resources for families and downloadable Seattle tree walk maps including a few in NW Seattle at this [Tree Walk Link](#). Then check out this story from KUOW about ["What trees are saying when we aren't looking"](#). Enjoy your walks!

# FAITH & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR TRYING TIMES

## by Our Redeemer's Staff



Contributed by Social  
Justice Coordinator  
[Shannon Beck](#)

Every weekday at 10am PST, We Banjo 3, a “celtgrass” band from Galway, Ireland, shares live music, conversations and interviews, poetry, and once a quick ping pong tournament. These four brothers (two families) are living in the U.S. and Ireland. There is music, conversation and interviews, occasional poetry, and always some kind of fiddle, mandolin, or (yes) banjo music. It is good to connect with a wider world! <https://www.facebook.com/webanjo3>

Homeboy Industries <https://www.facebook.com/HomeboyIndustries/videos/2954022824655734> lead by Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, is a ministry that works in and with Los Angeles gangs. Their impact is impressive and heart warming. During Covid-19, there are daily stories shared by those whose lives have been touched by God through that ministry.

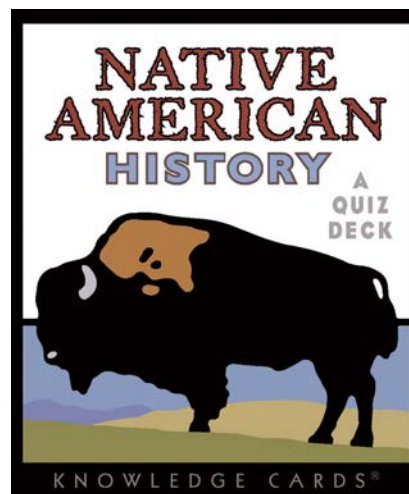
My good friend, David Lamotte, musician/speaker/author, is curating conversations with artists to build community and support musicians without income right now. He is also sharing concerts from his living room. Poets, visual artists, writers, children's musicians, and many more. <https://www.davidlamotte.com/2020/online-shows-and-conversations/>

### New reads:

“Anger is the deepest form of compassion, for another, for the world, for a life, for a body, for a family and for all our ideals, all vulnerable and all, possibly about to be hurt.” The poet, David Whyte's book, *Consolations: the Solace, Nourishment and Underlying Meaning of Everyday Words*, has insights worth consideration.

“Which tribe has the largest reservation in the United States and where is it?” Native American History Knowledge cards contains flashcards of information about First Nations history and I have found to be educational. [pomegranate.com](http://pomegranate.com)

Other important coping techniques: virtual happy hours with friends and family; gardening every single day; walking to Golden Gardens and back; visiting with three year olds (from a distance).





# FAITH & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR TRYING TIMES

## by Our Redeemer's Staff



Contributed by [Pastor Gretchen](#)

<https://www.scottericksonart.com/>

Scott Erickson is an artist based in Vancouver, Washington. He's a little different, but his paintings and liturgical work inspire me to think differently about faith and life. He's definitely going to push on spiritual norms a bit, but that's one of the things I like about him. I don't need resources that make me comfy. I need things that make me see in new ways, which isn't always comfortable.



<https://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Jan Richardson is moving, talented, and multi-faceted. Her art is liturgical, poetic, artistic, and beautiful. Her blessings are some of the best I have ever read. Like this one, from *Holy Saturday*:

*If we have grown weary in this season. If we have become overwhelmed. If we are living with fear or anxiety or worry about what lies ahead. If the swirl of Holy Week has become intense. If time is moving strangely. If grief has been a traveling companion. If the ground beneath us has given way. If resurrection seems less than certain.*

*It's Saturday.*

*This is the day that calls us to breathe. This is the day that invites us to make a space within the weariness, the fear, the ache. This is the day that beckons us to turn toward one another, and to remember we do not breathe alone.*

*It's Saturday.*

<https://nadiabolzweber.com/>

Nadia and I have been friends for many years, and I love her pastoral heart, her clarity of call, and the way she swears like a sailor. Nadia has just released a new podcast, and it's fantastic. Many of you know her books, "Pastrix" and "Accidental Saints." This is a new media form for her, and it's great.



<https://sarahbessey.com/blog/>

Sarah Bessey is new to me, but I really like her. She speaks clearly and gives hilarious, deep, moving words to times that challenging. She carries a feminist view, while still wearing mascara. She is not easily boxed in. Here's one of her benedictions that I loved:

*When you find yourself in the darkness,  
May you make friends with the stars.  
May the lights of the city on the horizon lead you home,  
and may you experience the Love of God,  
the light of the world  
in your darkest corners of grief.*

# FAITH & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR TRYING TIMES

## by Our Redeemer's Staff

Contributed by [Pastor Gretchen](#)

(continued)

<http://poorclaremusic.com/>

Poor Claire is the band and love child of my friend Lacey Brown, who also was the recording engineer and mix-master for our Informal Ensemble recording. Lacey and I played together in Florida at the ELCA Youthworkers Extravaganza in the famous band "Sparklemotion," and are good friends. My dear friend Jeff Brumley is also a part of Poor Clare. But I say those words so that I can tell you this: I would love this music if I had NO IDEA who made it. It's beautiful, spiritual, moving, and amazing. I hope you like it too.



<https://laurendaigle.com/>

Lauren Daigle is a mega-rock star in the world of music, and also a Christian. Most of her music I find to be life-giving. She's a gutsy singer, much in the style of Adele, but her songs come from a place of faith. Unlike most Christian music, which I really don't care for, her music is spiritual without being heavy-handed, misogynistic, or filled with poor theology. (This is high praise from me, y'all!) Also, her tunes are comforting, and can be really groovy! Definitely worth a listen if you haven't checked her out yet.



Contributed by [Katlin Dickinson-Laurence](#), Office Coordinator/Welcome Minister

One of my Lenten practices this year was to start praying the daily offices (that means small moments of prayer at morning, noon, and evening/night). As we moved from Lent to Eastertide, I have kept up this practice. I have found that it is a helpful rhythm for each day. It adds structure, during a time when everything feels fluid and unstable.

Now, in all honesty, I haven't prayed every single office on every single day. Some days, it feels too hard to stop and pray. Sometimes I completely forget. But, here is what I know: rhythms are still rhythms even when I miss a couple steps. Rhythms aren't defined by the misses, the exceptions; they are defined by the continuation of their work.

Here are a couple of tools that I have used for praying the daily offices:

- Luther's Small Catechism – morning and evening prayers from Martin Luther. This is my go-to tool. It is simple and easy to memorize. <https://catechism.cph.org/en/daily-prayers.html>
- The Daily Office web app – from the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory; drawn from the Book of Common Prayer. <https://dailyoffice.app/>
- Common Prayer (website, app, and book) – has a social justice approach to the daily offices. <http://commonprayer.net/>

# Thank You



Shannon Beck and Our Redeemer's Lutheran Friends  
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church  
2400 NW 85<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

Dear Shannon and Our Redeemer's Lutheran Friends,

**Scripture tells the story over and over: how in times of extraordinary need, the most faithful rise up in ways that are unexpected and beautiful.** Thank you for being one more chapter of that story today. As you and your congregation rise to the questions of how to be church in the time of COVID-19, we salute you.

**And we thank you. Your community's gift on January 31, 2020 in the amount of \$500.00 to the Church Council of Greater Seattle is allowing God's work to be done through the power of congregations working together. This very week, your gift is helping our circles of organizing congregations to be present for today's extraordinary needs.**

It is striking to me that 1918 saw the last major world pandemic, followed closely by the founding of this Council in 1919. Another pandemic coincides with our 101<sup>st</sup> year. Such times demand collaboration, courage, and community. It is no accident that this visionary collaboration of faith began in a crisis.

We have each other. We have the leading of a mighty Spirit of Love and Justice. And today you have our deep gratitude for how you rise up to extraordinary needs.

Wishing you leading, strength, vision, and blessed restoration from your work,

Michael Ramos  
Executive Director

**Our Redeemer's values  
our community partners.  
Your contributions keep  
our connections strong.  
Thank you!**



# Thank You

Pastors Kathy and Gretchen,

I want to thank you both and all others involved for your hard work and the tremendous effort you have done in presenting the streaming of church services. It was so meaningful to have Holy Week services for our members so that we could all participate in our homes. Many that I have spoken with are so grateful. That spiritual connection is so important during this time. Thank you for your thought provoking sermons.

Last Sunday's sing along service was thoroughly delightful and presented in such a beautiful format. Karen and Erica's voices blended so well together in the duet they performed. Stephanie sang a solo which was one of my favorite songs, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." The flute accompaniment was lovely. And of course Gretchen you always add so much with your singing. Singing all those old hymns was like remembering old friends.

I participated in the prayer vigil for the first time and found it to be a deeply moving experience. I plan to continue to be involved in the vigil next year.

Our congregation is fortunate to have so many wonderful people who have been so thoughtful and caring by reaching out to others at this time to ensure our member's emotional needs are being met. We are lucky to have people who promote such a welcoming environment...

Be safe and stay healthy,  
Christine Skow

We want to express our deep appreciation to the leadership and membership of the church for their prayers and notes of encouragement to us at the death of our youngest grandchild, Declan Beau Wright, on March 12. He died in his sleep and no cause has been determined. We are so very thankful that we and our daughters were able to be with our son Eliot and his wife Kelly and their older son Elijah during this time, and to attend Declan's funeral, at a time when flying anywhere was becoming more and more problematic and before funerals themselves were ruled unsafe. We are so grateful to the body of Christ. God bless all of us during these strange times.

Love,  
Judy and Dana Wright

<div> <div>Note: The events on this calendar are not in-person meetings; all gatherings may choose to meet online. Check with your group leader for details or email <a href="mailto:office@ourredeemers.net">office@ourredeemers.net</a>.</div> <div>MAY 2020</div> <div>ourredeemers.net/calendar</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> Faith Formation for Families (Online) <b>11am Online Worship Service</b>	<b>4</b> 7pm Faith Formation Team	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Office Closed# 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	<b>7</b> 1pm Staff Meeting	<b>1</b> <b>2</b>	
<b>10 Mother's Day</b> Faith Formation for Families (Online) <b>11am Online Worship Service</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7pm Executive Team Meeting	<b>13</b> 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10am Ecycle Collection Event 
<b>17</b> Faith Formation for Families (Online) <b>11am Online Worship Service</b> 2-7pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30 Church Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 12pm R2H Meeting 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	<b>21</b> Newsletter Content Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Faith Formation for Families (Online) <b>11am Online Worship Service</b>	<b>25 Memorial Day</b> 	<b>26</b> 7pm 	<b>27</b> 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Adult & Youth Choir (Online)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 PENTECOST</b> Faith Formation for Families (Online) <b>11am Online Worship Service</b> Healing Sunday						

#Staff devotes the first Wednesday of each month to professional development and planning.





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117  
[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)  
206-783-7900

**return service requested**

**NON-PROFIT ORG**

**US POSTAGE PAID**

**SEATTLE, WA**

**PERMIT #587**

Our Redeemer's is striving to reduce the printing and production costs of "The Visitor", our monthly newsletter (and save a tree or two in the process!). Let us know if you can go paperless and receive an emailed pdf only. Email [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net) to let us know!

Our worship band, The Informal Ensemble, has released a new album! See the article on page 5 for details or [LISTEN NOW!](#)



**Follow Us on Instagram!**

We are on Instagram! Follow us and see what exciting things are happening around the church. @ourredeemersballard



**Like Us on Facebook!**

DO YOU LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S? THEN [LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S FACEBOOK PAGE!](#) An easy way to invite and engage your friends.