

First Sunday of Christmas

“The Road is Made by Walking”

Pilgrim, your footsteps are
the road, and nothing more;
pilgrim, there is no road,
the road is made by walking.
By walking one makes the road,
and upon glancing behind
one sees the path
that never will be trod again.

--Anthony Machado (1875-1939)

December 29, 2024

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...
an adventure for life!

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Please silence your cell phone.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Please be respectful of people who use this time to prepare for worship.

Prelude

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Joel Raney

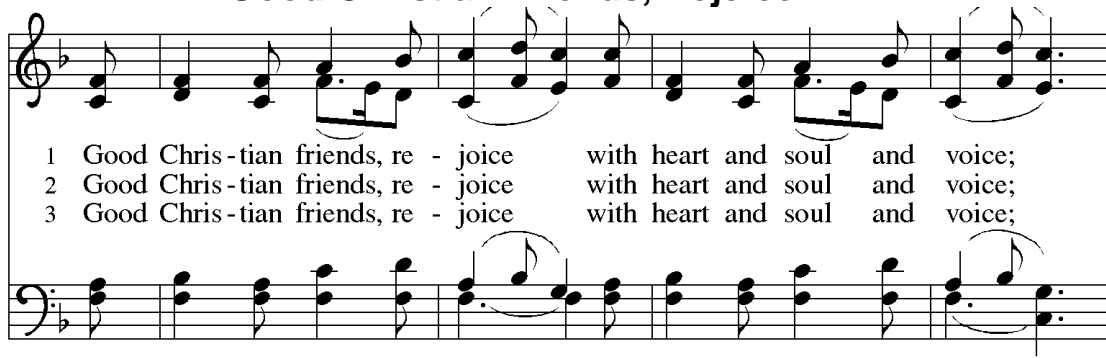
Welcome



Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn

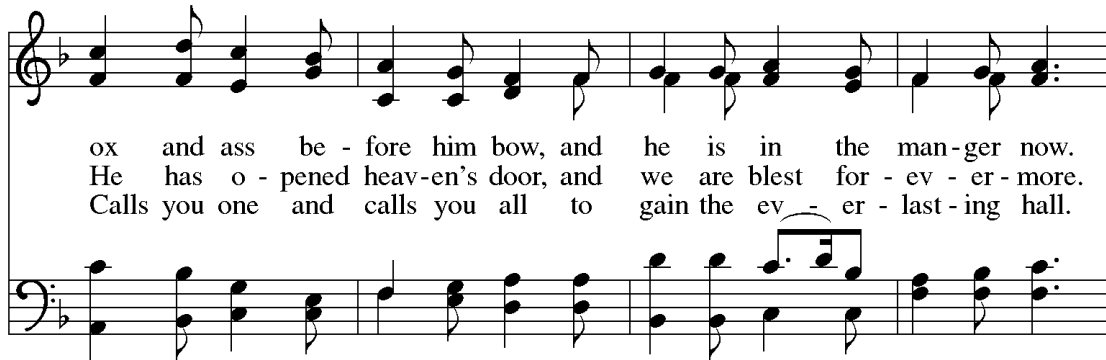
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Shine in our hearts the light of the Bethlehem star, Gracious God. By that light, help us open our spirits to see all creation as loved by you, and so treat your creation with respect and kindness. In the name of the Christ Child we pray.

Amen.

Please be seated



WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading **Colossians 3:12-17** (The Message, inclusivized)
A reading from the letter to the early church at Colossae

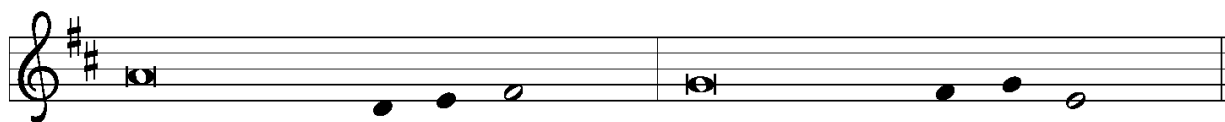
Chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God every step of the way.

May we open ourselves to what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Amen.**



Psalm 148



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Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.**

Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,
**who made them stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away.**

Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;
**fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ ing God's will;**

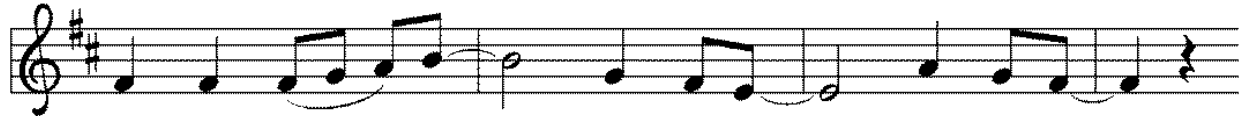
mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;
**wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;**
sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;
**young ¹ men and maidens,
old and ¹ young together.**

Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ¹ earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all ¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. ¹ Hallelujah!**

Please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52 (Contemporary English Version)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover.

When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "Child, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Abba?" But they had no idea what he was talking about.

So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Spoken Reflection *THE HOME WE CHOOSE...THE HOME THAT CHOOSES US*

Musical Reflection

Psalm 148

Music: JS Bach's "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring", 1723

Text: Paraphrase of Psalm 148 by Al Rider
Violin, Tom Rider; baritone, Al Rider

Allelu! The skies resound
With songs of praise to God most high.
Sun, moon and stars with joy abound,
Wind, rain and thunder make reply.
New budding life adorns the hills,
The creatures throng to do God's will.
All tongues in harmony unite
As nations find in God their light.

Allelu! Sing with delight.
Creation's Author speaks again
To touch the earth with blessing bright
So hope can flow'r and peace can reign.
A Word sounds forth within our hist'ry,
Earth is washed with sacred myst'ry.
Trumpets, voices join in praise.
God's glory fills us, and our days.

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Community Prayers

Let us pray....

After each petition: "Receive our prayer,"

Your mercy is great.

Amen.

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreiness, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, son-in-law Brandon James, and her niece Olivia Theissen, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Karen Kent, Ruth Boys, Al Debelak, Barbara Hairston and family, Jon Disbro, Eileene Welker, the family of Linda Williams' brother John Huber who died on Christmas Eve

For the people of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Columbus

For Redeemer community members David Detweiler and Brian Fear

Time with the Young People

Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Members are encouraged to move around the sanctuary to greet each with a hearty handshake or a hug. For those who have special concerns or who do not wish close contact, please offer a sign of blessing to let others know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.

We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshiping via livestream before greeting those in the sanctuary.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to share this communion meal.

Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.

In body or spirit, please stand

Offertory

You Are Holy

1*



You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2

You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÅR HELIG, Per Harling

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Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

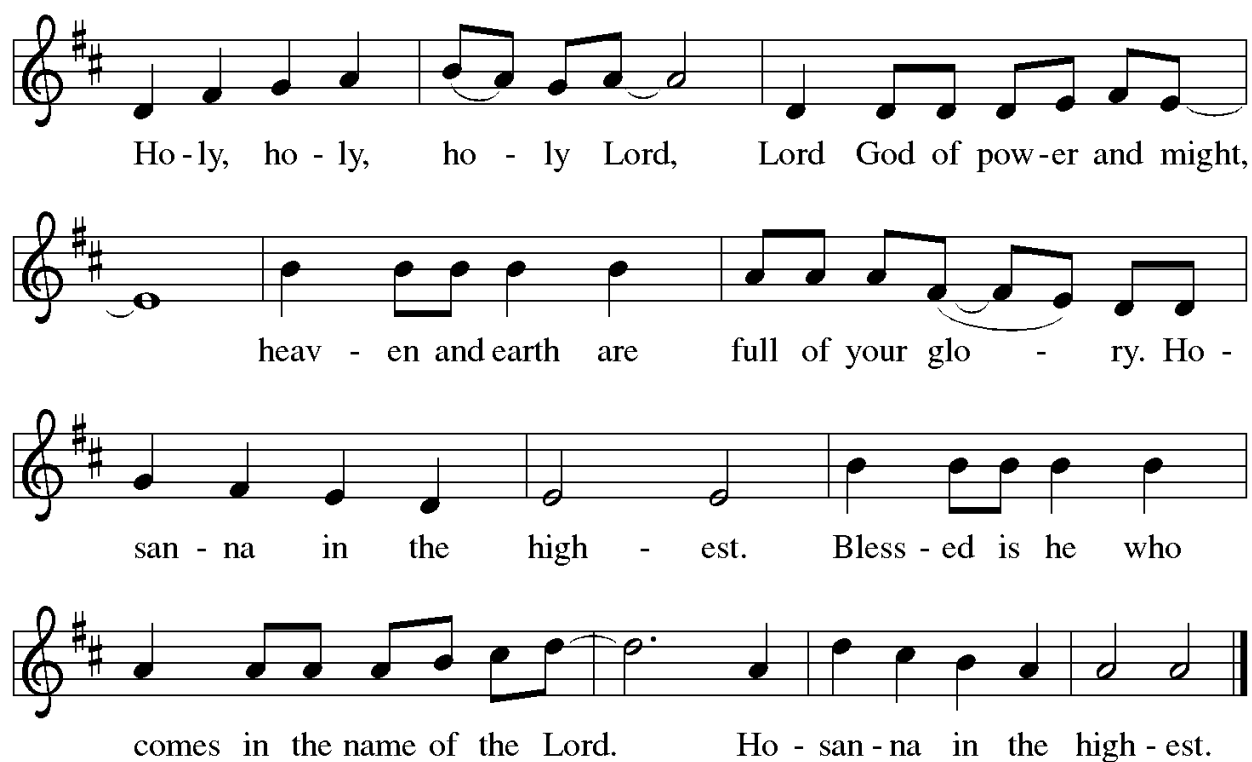
**And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.**

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to praise you, Holy God, for the life around and within us. From the beginning of time your Spirit breathed light over darkness. You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains. You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life. You made humans in your image, and loved us in our brokenness and beauty. You promised to stay with us wherever we might go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary. Your Spirit met her, so together you could help make creation whole. She gave birth to Jesus, your beloved one. As he grew, and heard your call more clearly, he healed wounds. He blessed the lost and lonely with the gift of home. He showed hungry souls how they could follow him in love without fear. His presence in this meal offers the same gifts and power to us.

Holy One, shine upon us this morning as you shone upon the faithful Mary and trusting shepherds. Shine upon us as you have always given light to your people in the darkest times and places. Lit by the star over the manger, we raise our voices with saints and angels in this heavenly song:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

In this season of Christmas, we kneel by the manger remembering the birth of Jesus while at the same time we gather around the table of the last supper with his disciples. We see this beautiful baby and we see the adult Jesus whose words, actions, and fearlessness made the powerful fear him enough to seek to silence him. Long after that holy night in Bethlehem, Jesus gathered with his friends in Jerusalem. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, he took a cup of wine, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is the blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this, do so to remember me."

We ask your Spirit to bless this meal. As we live between the manger and the upper room, between the joy of Christmas and the betrayal of the last supper, come among us! We open ourselves to Jesus' presence in this meal and in each other. Fed by this meal, we will be his body given for the world you love. We promise to make these words come alive in us as we pray:

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sharing the Meal

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal.

So do we.

Please be seated

You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray, grape-apple juice in the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available on request, ask Pastor.

Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Amen.



WE ARE SENT

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Blessing

Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Joel Raney

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The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:

DONOR

Kevin Bailey
Bruce Collins
Kay Ernsthausen
John Kennedy
Emily Kent
Shirley and Matthew Miller
Kathy & Tom Mimplitch
Ruth Murray & Donna Voelkel
Karen & Al Rider
Steiner Family
Wendy Stoica
Laura & Terry Warren
Jennifer & Tim Young
Kathleen Zwanziger

DONOR

Nancy Magargal
Ann Palmerton & Brad Binau
Ruth Murray & Donna Voelkel
Linda Williams
Laura & Terry Warren

IN MEMORY OF

Ruth Anna & Vyron Bailey
Karen Collins
David Ernsthausen, Parents and Grandparents
Rev. John L. & Marcelene A. Kennedy
Loved ones
John W. Miller
John, Our parents
Our Parents
Ken McCune, Pr. Steve Patrick
Loved Ones
Gene Anderson
Our parents and Walt, Bill, & Jennifer Hudson
Shirley & Bob Young and Karen Collins
Ethel & Al Zwanziger, Marie and Mark

IN HONOR OF

My family
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Redeemer Musicians
Family
Our Family

Adult Ed

Sundays - 11:15 a.m.

Getting to Know You

January 5 - Jolly Old Nick

Nick will talk about his life and times, and how his spirit lives on. And you'll have a chance to ask questions as well.

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475541581?pwd=PEyYLFqECnuQBzf9bSbagxGY44GXcU.1>

Meeting ID: 834 7554 1581 = Passcode: 752230

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



Tuesday Bible Study
Beginning 7 January

The stories of Elijah and Elisha

Tuesdays + 1:00pm

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86259497992?pwd=zbqyreRTMjc2DXXPiJD5mQRc5UlxjdA.1>

Meeting ID: 862 5949 7992

Passcode: 830218

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799

Adult Ed

Sundays - 11:15 a.m.

Getting to Know You

As a way to deepen our relationships with each other by getting to know each other better, Pastor Dave will interview a variety of folks about their lives. And you'll have a chance to ask questions as well.

January 12 - Donna Voelkel

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475541581?pwd=PEyYLFqECnuQBzf9bSbagxGY44GXcU.1>

Meeting ID: 834 7554 1581 = Passcode: 752230

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



Sunday, January 19

10:00 am Worship and Fellowship

Join us as we host a combined worship service with our neighbors at

Christ United Methodist Church.

Pastor Willis Johnson and Pastor Dave will offer a dialogue message.

Following worship, there will be a potluck where folks will be encouraged to talk about issues that Martin Luther King Jr. Day bring up.

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister	David Shull, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Al Rider
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Zak Hinkle-Moore
Verger	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
Communion Prep	Misato In, Diane Brobeck, Karen Rider
Producers	Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips
Hospitality	Judith and Ashley Bird

Noisy Offering will go to B.R.E.A.D.

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 5

Today	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
Next Sunday	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education



Birthdays this week:
31 - John Kennedy
1 - Connie Criswell
2 - Don Luck - 92 years old
4 - Kristen Ullman

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community

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Office hours -9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America