



## REDEEMER REDMOND

### *Lessons & Carols*

December 24, 2023

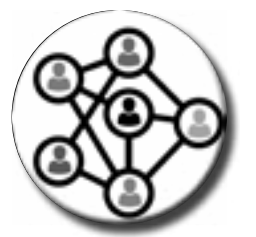
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*Today's service is based on the "Service of Lessons and Carols"—first written by E.W. Benson, later Bishop of Canterbury, for use in the Cathedral at Truro. It is adapted from ancient sources as a Christmas Eve service and was first celebrated at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880. It was later modified for use at King's College in Cambridge, in 1918, by its then Dean, Reverend Eric Milner-White. Our service joins scriptural text from the whole breadth of God's word that speak of the coming of the Christ-child, with carols that highlight the themes found in these texts. Variations of our service have, and continue to be, used with some variation around the world.*

## **Narrator**

The Bible tells the story of God's love for the broken, fallen world in sending His Son to be Savior. It is not merely a story of God's love for the whole world in general, but of His very personal love for you.

If you are a Christian, we hope that the Bible's story will thrill your heart anew like it did when you first believed. And if you are hearing it for the first time, we hope that your heart will open up to receive the life changing love of God in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our story starts where the Bible starts: God's creation of the world.

## **Lesson One**

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### **The Creation of the World and Mankind in God's Image**

#### **Narrator**

This is the account of how God created the world and made mankind in his image to reflect and represent him.

#### **Genesis 1:1-3, 26-31**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”... And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## **Lesson Two**

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### **The Fall and the Victorious Savior**

#### **Narrator**

This is how God’s beautiful and pure creation became bent, polluted, alienated and destructive, and how God himself promised to restore it.

#### **Genesis 3:1-8**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

## **Carol: O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide**

*Words from a German spiritual song; tr. Martin L. Seltz;  
music Nathan Partain, 2003*

verse 1

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down,  
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

## **Genesis 3:9-15**

But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

## **Narrator**

The writer of the book of Hebrews — a book written after the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — testifies that Jesus is the victorious one who crushed the head of the serpent:

### **Hebrews 2:14-16**

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

## **Carol: O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide**

*verse 2*

O Morning Star, O Radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without your light,  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

## **Lesson Three**

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### **The Savior Will Be the Promised Offspring of Abraham**

#### **Narrator**

Thousands of years later, the Lord, the true God, tells Abraham to leave the country that he had known for a place that God would show him. The Lord promised him that a whole nation would come from him and that through Abraham and Sarah's child, God would bless the world. Even though Sarah was barren and past the age of childbearing, Abraham believed God's promise and his faith was credited to him as righteousness. After decades of waiting, the promised son was born. It is then that God tells Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to atone — to make amends or reparation — for the sins of Abraham and his family. Believing that the God who had given him this miraculous son could also raise him from the

dead, Abraham obeyed and made the journey with his beloved son Isaac to the place God told him to go. This is how it happened:

### **Genesis 22:9-18**

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

And he said, "Here I am."

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

## **Narrator**

Paul, who had at one time persecuted and killed Christians but was confronted by the resurrected Jesus, becoming a follower of Jesus, declares to the church at Galatia:

## **Galatians 3:16**

“Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, ‘And to offsprings,’ referring to many, but referring to one, ‘And to your offspring,’ who is Christ.”

## **Narrator**

The Apostle Paul says that Jesus is the ultimate offspring promised to Abraham who would bring blessing to the world. But unlike Isaac, who is spared, God does not spare His beloved Son, but gives him up for us. Jesus pays the debt incurred by our sin that every person owes to a Holy God. Jesus offered himself up as a sacrifice to provide atonement—forgiveness, or pardoning—for the sins of the world.

## **Carol: “O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide”**

*verses 3 & 4*

Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O, come, lead us with mighty hand,  
Through exile to the promised land.

There shall we all our praises bring,  
Ever to you, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud you and adore,  
Forever and forever more  
Forever and forever more  
Forever and forever more.

# Lesson Four

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## The Savior Will Be a Prophet like Moses

### Narrator

After the Lord delivered his people from their slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years wandering the desert. After those forty years, as the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land, Moses preached to them what God had spoken to him. In the midst of his sermon, he prophesied of a prophet who was to come:

### Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, “Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”

And the Lord said to me, “They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”

### Narrator

Forty days after Jesus was resurrected, the Holy Spirit was given to all Christians. At that time the Apostle Peter preaches a famous sermon recorded in the book of Acts. In this sermon he testifies that Jesus fulfilled what Moses had predicted:

### Acts 3:22-23

And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he



may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, “The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.”

## **Carol: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

*John Mason Neale Thomas Helmore; Public Domain; CCLI# 31982*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

## **Lesson Five**

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### **The Savior Will Be a Priest in the Order of Melchizedek**

#### **Narrator**

The Bible promised that God’s Savior would not only be a prophet representing God to his people, but also a priest, ministering to the people of God and bringing them into the presence of God. As the Holy Spirit spoke through the writer of Psalm 110, hundreds of years before Christ was born:

#### **Psalm 110:1-4**

The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; From the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

## **Narrator**

The writer of Hebrews explains to the early church why Jesus, from the tribe of Judah and not Levi, would be a priest of a different order representing a new covenant with God.

## **Hebrews 6:19-7:3**

“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.”

## **Carol: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

*verses 2 & 3*

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer,  
our spirits by thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of Nations, bind,  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and discord cease,  
Fill the world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

# Lesson Six

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## The Savior Will Be a King in the Line of David

### Narrator

Jesus is the promised son of Abraham, the High Priest, and the Prophet. He is also the promised King from the lineage of David. The greatest of all the Kings of Israel was David. After David had been established as King he had in his heart to build a temple for the Lord. However, when he inquired of the Lord through the prophet Nathan, the Lord sent Nathan back to David and explained to him that he would not be the one to build him a temple. Yet, with this response to David, he also sent a promise of great blessing:

### 2 Samuel 7:8-13

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

### Narrator

Over one thousand years later, when Jesus was about to be crucified, Pilate asked him, "Are you a king?" Jesus testified about himself, answering:

## **John 18:37**

“You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

## **Carol: “What Child Is This”**

*William Chatterton Dix, 1865*

What child is this, who laid to rest  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping

*chorus*

This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own him  
The King of Kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone him

Raise, raise a song on high  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born  
The babe, the son of Mary

# Lesson Seven

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## The Prophecies and their Fulfillment

### Narrator

The Prophets who spoke God's Word to Israel, prophesied of the coming of the Messiah, meaning "anointed one," from which we get the name Christ. Seven hundred years before Jesus Christ was born, the prophet Isaiah foretold the sign—the virgin birth—and what it would mean for the world. Speaking the words God had given him, he said:

### Isaiah 7:13-14, 9:6-7

"Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### Carol: "O Holy Night"

*Words Placide Cappeau, 1847, trans. from French to English by John S. Dwight (1812-1893) music Adolphe C. Adam (1803-1856)*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

## **Narrator**

Over five hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ the prophet Micah foresaw Jesus: who he would be, and where he would be born, when he said:

### **Micah 5:2-5**

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.”

## **Narrator**

This is how the prophecies of Isaiah, Micah, and the other prophets came to pass.

### **Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of

Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## **Carol: “O Holy Night”**

*verse 2*

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love, and his Gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name, all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy, in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name!  
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

## **Lesson Eight**

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### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

#### **Narrator**

We see Jesus is the fulfillment of the Lord God’s promise to send a Savior—to rescue us: Jesus is the Savior that crushed the head of Satan and brought hope of eternal life to all who live under the dominion of death; Jesus is the promised Son of Abraham who brought blessing to every family on earth by providing forgiveness for our sins; Jesus is the promised Prophet who speaks God’s Word, God’s Truth to us, the promised priest who brings us into the presence of God, the promised King who rules our hearts and lives with His peace.

This is why the message of the Bible is called the Gospel. Gospel means “good news,” it is the greatest news of all. The Bible tells us how the good news of the birth of the Savior was first announced.

## **Luke 2:8-21**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



## **Carol: “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”**

*Words: Phillip Brooks, 1868; Music: Lewis Redner, Public Domain*

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep  
The angels keep their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to men on earth

How silently how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven  
No ear may hear his coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in

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  
O come to us abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

## **Offering**

## **Children’s Storytime**

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*Children are invited to come forward for a story  
from Jesus’ Storybook Bible*

# Testimony

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Vijay Geddam

## Scripture Reading

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Rev. 22:16-17

<sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

*This is the Word of the Lord!*

**Thanks be to God!**

## Homily

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**Bright Morning Star**

Rev. Jason Dorsey

Names of Jesus ► Bright Morning Star ★

Merges nature/creation, Bible, and personal encounter into a compelling symbol

☞ || Peter 1:16-21 "...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart."

Has Jesus the bright, morning star risen in your ♥? Would you like him to?


1. Nature/Creation

★ The bright morning star that we see at the dawning (and evening of the day) is the planet **Venus**.

Observe...

- ☑ The stars are universal. Accessible to all people everywhere. **Lakota**
- ☑ Like Jesus, Son of God, is accessible and available to all people **Bill Ham Story**

## 2. Bible

1. Balaam (Gentile) prophecy of a   
A King from Israel **Numbers 24:17**

2. Isaiah's prophecy of a light, dawn, glory coming to the Nations **Isaiah 60:1-3**

3. Jesus is the Incarnate Son of  
Θ, The true + rightful King who  
was prophesied **11 Peter 1:16-21**

4. Jesus lived the perfect life we  
should have lived, on the Cross  
bore the judgment for our sins we  
should have borne, is raised for our  
salvation, and offers forgiveness and  
eternal life to all who will receive  
**Revelation 22:17**

5. He is our Hope for Restoration of  
Heaven + Earth + All Things **Rev. 22**

3. Jesus, The Bright Morning Star can rise in your   
**MY FRIENDS TELL** 

## **Carol: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

*William H. Cummings, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840, PD*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th’angelic host proclaim:  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

## Carol: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/ We Three Kings"

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our savior  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

*chorus*

O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading still proceeding  
Guide us to that perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown him again  
King forever ceasing never  
Over us all to reign

*chorus*

Glorious now behold him arise  
King and God and sacrifice  
Hallelujah Hallelujah  
Worship him God most high

*chorus*

# Lighting of the Candles

## Carol: “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

*words Joseph Mohr, c. 1818; vs. 1 & 3 tr. John F. Young, 1863; music Franz Gruber, 1820; CCLI #27862*

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright '  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, Love's pure light,  
Radiant, beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## Benediction

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“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16



# Announcements

## Ending Loneliness on the East Side

Loneliness is a social epidemic today. Many people on the East Side are lonely. Does this resonate with you? Do you lack meaningful friendships, community or purpose? Are you far from home or family? Do you feel the ache of loneliness?

The vision of Redeemer is to end loneliness on the East Side. We invite you to “come in” to this community and form meaningful friendships. Come and discover your purpose, and most importantly, develop a personal and intimate relationship with God.

Here are some of the connecting points where we “end loneliness:”

## Gather for Worship

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### Sunday Worship Services

Worship Service and Live Broadcast at 10:30

### Children’s Sunday School

Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to learn more about Jesus during the sermon on Sundays! Invite your friends to join us! See [Linda Huston](#) with questions! [Register Here!](#)

### Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

12/24 - No Sunday School (Christmas Eve)

12/31 - No Sunday School (New Year’s Eve)

1/7 - God Delivered His People (Ezra 1)

### Connect

Get on our [mailing list](#) for latest news in your inbox. Install our [mobile app](#) for easy access to resources (*search your app store for “Redeemer Redmond”*)

# Grow in Community

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## Church Hike, Dec 30

Prepare for the New Year with a trip out in God's creation. Our next church outing will be Sat, Dec. 30th. Since this is an El Nino year it could be a snowshoe or a walk, but either way it will be fun. This is a good opportunity to enjoy creation, and fellowship. Invite your friends to join us. We will meet at Redmond Middle School at 8am. If you have any questions, contact John. You are also invited to join our WhatsApp group (Cascade Mountain Hikes).

## Embarking on Your Calling, Class begins January 7

Would you like to take some time at the beginning of 2024 to reflect on your calling and to set goals for yourself in it? Pastor Jason will be leading a six week class on Sunday mornings at the Hilton Garden Inn, from 9:00-10:00am. This class will help you understand the calling God has appointed you and step boldly into it by setting clear and concrete goals for the new year.

## End of Year Giving

Thanks to everyone for your generous and sacrificial giving in 2023 out of love for Jesus and the desire to advance his kingdom.

Giving statements will be sent out by email at the end of January. As in the past, we will credit contributions to the year in which they are made:

- On-line giving is based upon the day it was made
- Offerings placed in the offering basket are based upon the day it was made. The service on 31 Dec will be the last opportunity for this.
- Contributions sent by post are based upon the day the mailing was postmarked. Keep in mind the slowed pace of the postal system this time of year.
- Bank checks (which are not postmarked) are based upon the date of the check



## Community Groups

Community Groups are small groups of Christians and seekers that meet in homes and apartments during the week. Through Bible Study, prayer, and mutual support people are encouraged and empowered for God's mission. Current Groups:

North Community group (contact [Sam](#))

Redmond community group (contact [Jim](#))

Online community group (contact [Jason](#))

Young Adults group (contact [Emily](#))

## Go in Mission

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### Angel Tree Ministry

Thank you for supporting this ministry in prayer, purchasing, wrapping, and delivering gifts by Christmas. Please continue praying for the children who will receive these gifts and that they and their families will feel the love of our Lord Jesus this Christmas.

### Counseling and Deaconal Support

Counseling scholarships from the Deacon Fund are available. If you have need of counseling or other deaconal support, please contact [Frank Huston](#) or any one of the deacons.

### Pray for Ministries and Neighbors We Support

- Jay Stoms' Family mission in South Africa
- RUF WWU and UW
- Northlake Young Life and Youth for Christ
- Redmond School Break Food Lunch Program
- Congregant ministries and outreach efforts
- Mission Eurasia
- Ministry to Tibetan Buddhists in the Diaspora

