

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!** We welcome all who are visiting with us this morning. We are delighted to have you with us. Please fill out one of our visitor cards so that we can get to know you. If you have any questions about COTR, feel free to ask one of our elders, our ministers, or members. We're glad you're here!

**Today--HOSPITALITY MEAL TODAY:** We will have a "Hospitality Meal" today after our morning service. If you have no plans for lunch, you are welcome to join some of our COTR families in the fellowship hall for a great time of food and fellowship.

**CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE:** We will again have our "Lessons & Carols" service this evening, at 6:00, here in the sanctuary. Make plans to come!

**Monday--MERRY CHRISTMAS!** May the Lord grant you a joyous and merry celebration of Jesus' nativity! God bless you merry, gentlemen (and ladies)!

**Tuesday--THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN:** Commemoration of the first martyr of the New Covenant. The second day of Christmas.

**Wednesday--THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN:** Commemoration of the one disciple who was not put to death but was a faithful witness (martyr) till the end. The third day of Christmas.

**Thursday--THE FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS:** Commemorating the deaths of the babies in Bethlehem who died for Jesus at the hands of the wicked tyrant. The fourth day of Christmas.

**Next Sunday--**Next Sunday we will have the privilege of having Assistant Pastor Zach Parker preaching in our morning service and Mr. Will Gunter preaching in our evening service. Please pray for God's blessing upon our brothers as they bring His Word to us.

### UPCOMING

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:** This evening in our annual "Lessons & Carols" service, we'll begin our celebration of Christmas. Remember, Christmas consist not just of our celebration of Jesus' birth (December 25) but for the 12 days that follow, ending on the eve of Epiphany, January 5. Epiphany, January 6, marks the beginning of the next season of the Christian calendar where we commemorate the manifestation of His glory to the world. May the Lord grant you a truly "merry rest" during this glorious season. Shalom to you and yours!

**READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2024:** The coming of 2024 means that it's time to make plans to read through the Scriptures again (or for the first time!). If you have any questions or would like to receive some suggestions for a reading plan, let us know!

**2024 CHRISTENDOM LECTURES:** Our 2024 Christendom Lectures will be held January 8-10, 2024. Our speakers are Joe Rigney (professor, New Saint Andrews College), Vishal Mangalwadi (founder-president of BOMI/Revelation Movement) and John Hodges (director of the Center for Western Studies). This year we will have breakout sessions on music Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon led by John Hodges, Scott Aniol, (executive vice president of G3 Ministries), Jarrod Richey, and Glen Warner. Make plans to be here!

**YOUTH DANCE:** A Youth Dance will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama, on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. til 9:30. All young people (12 yrs. And up) are invited. Contact the church office for more information.

## CALENDAR

December 24 – Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service, 6:00 p.m.  
25 – The Feast of the Nativity, Merry Christmas!  
26 – The Feast of St. Stephen  
27 – The Feast of St. John the Evangelist  
28 – The Feast of the Holy Innocents

January 1 – The Feast of Christ's Circumcision, Happy New Year!  
3-6 – Gloria Sancta X, Lindale, TX  
6 – The Feast of Epiphany  
7 – First Sunday of Epiphany  
8-10 – 2024 Christendom Lectures  
12 – Renewal Center lunch, 11:30 a.m.  
13 – Youth Dance at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL  
14 – Second Sunday service, 6:00 p.m.  
26 – Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.

February 9 – Renewal Center lunch, 11:30 a.m.  
Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.  
11 – Parish-wide Fellowship meetings, no evening service  
13 – Shrove Tuesday Celebration  
14 – Ash Wednesday noon prayer service,  
18 – First Sunday in Lent  
23 – Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.

### NURSERY WORKERS FOR TODAY:

**Infant:** AM: Charity Jones, Amanda Jane Vaughan  
Floater: Molly Kate Eley

**Toddler:** AM: Robbie McBroom, Patrick Trisler  
Floater: Tallis Wilkins

### NEXT WEEK:

Elizabeth Porter, Sophie Ferrington  
Molly Kate Eley

Jaiken Wilkins, Ethan Landry  
Oz Wilkins

**CHURCH of the REDEEMER** is a member of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC). The CREC is an international church community with member congregations all across North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, and Eastern Asia. We are evangelical believers who embrace the historic Christian faith, in the Protestant Reformation tradition. More information may be found at <https://crechurches.org>.

## CHURCH of the REDEEMER

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## THE LORD'S SERVICE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# DECEMBER 24, 2023

10:00AM MORNING SERVICE

## THE LORD CALLS US TO DRAW NEAR

MINISTER: "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let us worship God."

† HYMN #149 "Joy to the World"

† SALUTATION:

Minister: "Grace to you and peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you."

**Cong: "And with your spirit"**

Minister: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

**Cong: "Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

Minister: "O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" **Amen.**

## THE LORD CLEANSSES US

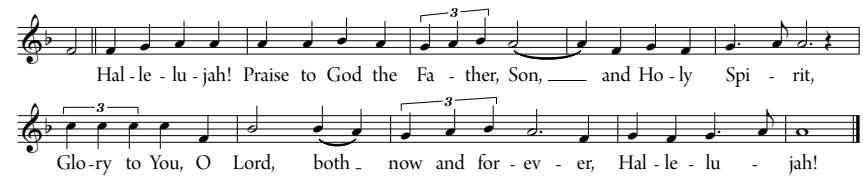
CONFESSION OF SINS:

Minister: "Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God"

**Cong: Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You, through ingratitude, disobedience, and hardness of heart. We have not heeded the warnings of Your prophets and apostles nor lived as those who await the appearing of Your Son in judgment. We have loved the world and the things of the world, and have not sought first Your Kingdom and righteousness. Wherefore we beseech Your mercy. Forgive us for our sins and deliver us from all evil and the evil one, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Minister: "Arise and hear the good news of God's forgiveness: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



† OPENING ACCLAMATION:

† ASCENSION (Sung Preface & Sursum Corda):

Minister: The Lord be with You.



Minister: Lift up your hearts.



Minister: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



Minister: "It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee. O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God: Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing:"

†The Congregation will please stand

† SANCTUS (p. vii, SH)

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

† CANTICLE #2 (SH) "Benedictus"

## THE LORD INSTRUCTS US

THE LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

Minister: "The Word of the Lord."

**Cong: "Thanks be to God."**

CONGREGATIONAL PSALM

Psalm 24

THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-11

Minister: "The Word of the Lord."

**Cong: "Thanks be to God."**

† HYMN #151 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

† READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

Minister: "The Gospel of our Lord."

**Cong: "Praise be to You, O Christ."**

† THREE-FOLD ALLELUIA:



† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Celebrating Christmas Like God"

Pastor Steve Wilkins

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY #160 "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

(the congregation will sing this hymn)

† DOXOLOGY (We lift our hearts, voices, and hands in praise to God)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

†The Congregation will please stand

## THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US

HYMN #40 (SH) "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

Minister: Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: Hear our prayer.**

† THE LORD'S PRAYER: page ix (SH)

† NICENE CREED:

**WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;** Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

**AND IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST,** the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sits on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

**AND WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST;** the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead; And the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Words of Institution

Thanksgiving for the Bread

Communion Hymn #150 "All My Heart This Night Rejoices"

Thanksgiving for the Wine

Passing the peace of Christ

Minister: "The Body and Blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith unto life everlasting; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." **Amen.**

## THE LORD COMMISSIONS US

† HYMN #5 (SH) "Nunc Dimittis"

† BENEDICTION

† THREE-FOLD AMEN

†The Congregation will please stand