

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–MERRY CHRISTMAS!

NO HOSPITALITY MEAL TODAY: We will not have our hospitality meal today, but they will resume next year.

NO EVENING SERVICE TODAY: We will not have our evening service today. We'll resume our regular schedule next Sunday, January 1.

Friday–CHRISTMASTIDE DANCE: We will be having a “Christmastide Dance” on Friday, December 30, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall. All are invited and it is free of charge, so make plans to come.

Next Sunday–THE FEAST OF CHRIST'S CIRCUMCISION: Next Sunday, the Second Sunday of Christmas, is the day set aside to commemorate the circumcision of Jesus (the eighth day after His birth). By His circumcision, Jesus was initiated into the covenant that God had made with Abraham and his seed and received the name “Jesus” (“Yahweh is Savior”). His circumcision would culminate in the circumcision of the Cross, where Jesus' own flesh would be definitively cut off. And then, by His resurrection, He not only inaugurated the New Creation but became the embodiment of that New Creation. So it is most appropriate that we begin the new year by remembering that our Savior is the Lord of Life who delivers us from the old life of slavery to sin and makes all things new.

GENERAL:

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER: The elders have received Mr. John Eley into the membership of COTR. Mr. Eley comes to us by way of transfer from Emmanuel Baptist Church of Ruston, Louisiana. It is a great blessing to have Mr. Eley as an “official” member of COTR!

UPCOMING:

GARNER & HORNE PREACHING: We will have the privilege of hearing Pastor Duane Garner (Christ Church, Cary, NC) and Mr. Mark Horne (of Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO) preaching in our morning and evening services respectively on Sunday, January 8. Duane and Mark will both be teaching in our Christendom Lectures, and it's a great privilege to have them with us.

2023 CHRISTENDOM LECTURES: Our 2023 Christendom Lectures are set for January 9-11, 2023 and will feature talks by Pastor Duane Garner (of Cary, North Carolina); Mr. Mark Horne (of St. Louis, Missouri), and Dr. Micah Mattix of Lynchburg, VA. COTR members may attend these lectures free of charge, **BUT you must register – and the deadline is January 3.** Go online and register today!

CALENDAR

December 25 – The Feast of the Nativity. Merry Christmas!
No evening service
30 – Christmastide Dance, 6:30 p.m., fellowship hall

January 1 – The Feast of Christ's Circumcision, Happy New Year!
3 – Ladies' Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., choir room
4-7 – Gloria Sancta 9
8 – First Sunday of Epiphany
Pastor Duane Garner and Mark Horne preaching in our services
9-11 – 2023 Christendom Lectures
13 – Renewal Center lunch, 11:30 a.m.
15 – High School Fellowship, 7:15 p.m. fellowship hall

February 7 – Ladies' Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
10 – Renewal Center lunch, 11:30 a.m.
12 – Second Sunday service
21 – Shrove Tuesday celebration
22 – Ash Wednesday Prayer service, 12:00 p.m.
26 – First Sunday in Lent

NURSERY WORKERS FOR TODAY:

Infant: AM: Brenda Turner, Amanda Jane Vaughan
Floater: Molly Kate Eley

Toddler: AM: Robbie McBroom, Caleb Wilkins
Floater: Jaiken Wilkins

NEXT WEEK:

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 25, 2022

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 #151 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

† 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: “The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations.”

Cong: “And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God”

Minister: “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” **Amen.**

THE LORD CLEANSSES US

CONFESSION OF SINS:

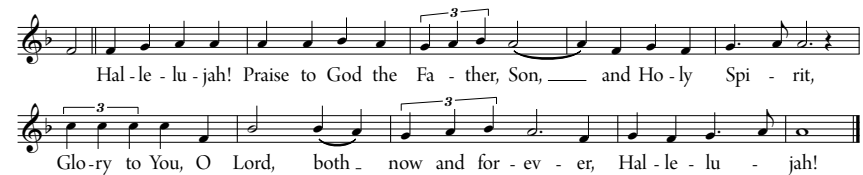
Minister: “Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God”

Cong: Almighty God, we confess that we are unworthy of the gift of Your Son. We have not loved You nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not been humbled by Your mercies nor have we served You faithfully. Pardon all our offenses, and deliver us from all evil; through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of Your Son, 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:



Hal-le-lu-jah! Praise to God the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit,
Glo-ry to You, O Lord, both now and for-ev-er, Hal-le-lu-jah!

† ASCENSION (Sung Preface & Sursum Corda):

Minister: The Lord be with You.

Congregation:



And with thy spir-it.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

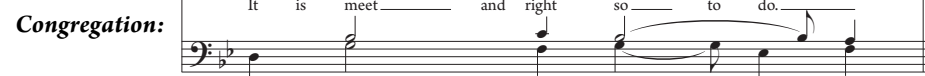
Congregation:



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

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

Congregation:



It is meet and right so to do.

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 9:2-7

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

Cong: “Thanks be to God.”

CONGREGATIONAL PSALM

Psalms 98

THE EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

Cong: “Thanks be to God.”

† HYMN #168 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

† READING OF THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Minister: “The Gospel of our Lord.”

Cong: “Praise be to You, O Christ.”

† THREE-FOLD ALLELUIA:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *“The Coming of the World’s Ruler”*

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 #159

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

† 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 #169 *“Who is This So Weak and Helpless”*

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