

## 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.

**EVENING SERVICE:** This evening in our evening service we will have the privilege of having Mr. Will Gunter proclaim God's Word. Please pray for God's blessing.

**Monday–FEAST OF CHRIST'S CIRCUMCISION:** Tomorrow is the eighth day of Christmas, the day on which Jesus was circumcised according to God's law. This feast reminds us that Jesus, by His work, has accomplished and secured new life for man. So, remember the work of our Savior as you celebrate the beginning of 2024!

**Wednesday–GLORIA SANCTA CONFERENCE:** Please pray for God's blessing upon the 10th annual Gloria Sancta Conference which begins this Wednesday and ends on Friday.

**Saturday–THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY:** This Saturday, January 6, is the Feast of Epiphany which commemorates the revelation of Jesus' glory not just to Israel but to the world. The season of Epiphany runs through Shrove Tuesday (February 13).

**Next Sunday–MICKEY SCHNEIDER PREACHING:** Next Sunday evening we will again have the privilege of having Pastor Mickey Schneider proclaim God's Word. Pastor Schneider was one of the “founding fathers” of the PCA and has been a long-time minister in the CREC.

### GENERAL:

**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!

### UPCOMING

**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

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.  
24 – Session Meeting, 6:30 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.

March 8 – Renewal Center Lunch, 11:30 a.m.  
Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.  
10 – Second Sunday service, 6:00 p.m.  
22 – Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.  
29 – Good Friday service, 6:00 p.m.  
31 – Easter Sunday, no evening service

### NURSERY WORKERS FOR TODAY:

**Infant:** AM: Elizabeth Porter, Sophie Ferrington  
Floater: Mollie Kate Eley

**Toddler:** AM: Jaiken Wilkins, Ethan Landry  
Floater: Oz 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 31, 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 #168 *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*

† 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

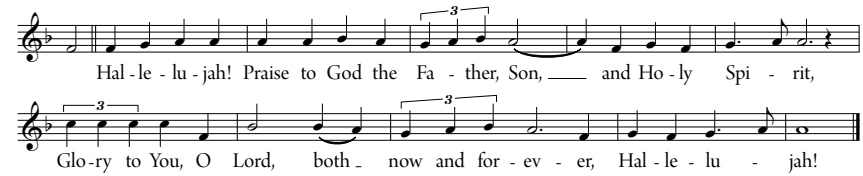
CONFESSION OF SINS:

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 honored You with the good gifts You have bestowed upon us, nor been humbled by Your mercies that You grant to us every morning. We have not sought Your glory above our own honor, nor have we served You faithfully. Pardon all our offenses, blot out all our iniquities 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:

† 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 61:10-62:3

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

**Cong: “Thanks be to God.”**

CONGREGATIONAL PSALM

Psalm 24

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4-7

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

**Cong: “Thanks be to God.”**

† HYMN #60 (SH) *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

† READING OF THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Minister: “The Gospel of our Lord.”

**Cong: “Praise be to You, O Christ.”**

† THREE-FOLD ALLELUIA:



† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *“Born for Our Adoption”*

Pastor Zach Parker

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY #159 *“Good Christian Men Rejoice”*  
(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 #164 *“Angels From the Realms of Glory”*

† 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