

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-RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: We rejoice to receive into our membership Mr. And Mrs. Randal Loeffler and grandson, Pierre Lemoine. Randall, Beth, and Pierre come to us by way of transfer from All Saints Reformed Church of Covington, Louisiana. Please pray for God's blessing upon the Loefflers as they worship and serve Him with us here at COTR!

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 we have the privilege of welcoming Pastor Mickey Schneider to our pulpit. Pastor Schneider was ordained in the Presbyterian Church of the United States and became one of the "founding fathers" of the PCA. He has been a long-time minister in the CREC and a long-time friend of our congregation and it's an honor to have him with us again. Please pray for God's blessing upon His Word.

Monday-CHRISTENDOM LECTURES 2024: Our 25th Annual Christendom Lectures will begin tomorrow evening at 7:00, here in the sanctuary. We'll have two sessions: Dr. Joe Rigney speaking at 7:00 and Dr. Vashal Mangalwady at 8:30. The evening lectures of the conference are free and open to the public so please invite your friends.

Tuesday-CHRISTENDOM LECTURES: We will begin with a Matins service at 8:30 a.m. and afterwards have two more lectures in the morning session. Mr. John Hodges will be speaking at 9:15 and Dr. Mangalwady at 10:45. These will be followed by a Q&A session at 11:45.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS: We will have two "break out" sessions focusing upon the music of the Church on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

EVENING SESSION: Our Tuesday evening session will begin at 7:00 with a lecture from Dr. Mangalwady. This will be followed by Dr. Joe Rigney's second lecture at 8:15.

Wednesday-CHRISTENDOM LECTURES: We'll begin again with a Matins service at 8:30 a.m. This will be followed by Dr. Joe Rigney at 9:15 and the final lecture by Pastor Wilkins at 10:45. There will be another Q&A session at 11:45.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS: We will have two more breakout sessions beginning at 3:00 p.m.

FAMILY FOLK DANCE: There will be a Family Folk Dance beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are invited to join in!

Friday-RENEWAL CENTER LUNCH: This Friday we will again be serving lunch at the Renewal Center. If you are able to assist with food preparation, please contact Jackie so that we're able to plan the meal.

Saturday-YOUTH DANCE: A Youth Dance will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama, this coming Saturday, January 13, from 6:00 p.m. til 9:30. All young people (12 yrs. And up) are invited.

CALENDAR

January 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

April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter
12 – Renewal Center Lunch, 11:30 a.m.
Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.
14 – Second Sunday service, 6:00 p.m.
26 – Fridays with Flannery, 7:00 p.m.

NURSERY WORKERS FOR TODAY:

Infant: AM: Savannah Riley, Clara McBroom
Floater: Laura Belle Hilleke

Toddler: AM: James Rockett, Jeremy Cychosz
Floater: Miles Lang

NEXT WEEK:

Rachel Huber, Darla Dlugosh
Emmalyne Eley

Joanna Gunter, Esther Catledge
Parker Hanson

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 EPIPHANY

JANUARY 7, 2024

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 #173 *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

† 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: “Arise, shine, for your light has come!”

Cong: *“And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you!”*

Minister: *“All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord’s, And He rules over the nations.” Amen.*

THE LORD CLEANSSES US

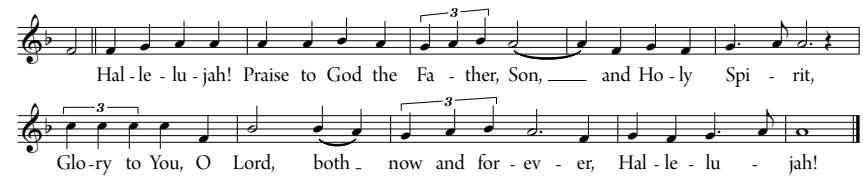
CONFESSION OF SINS:

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

Cong: *Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned against You and against one another in what we have done and what we have left undone. We confess that in Jesus our light has come, yet we have often departed from His ways and ignored His truth. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us all the remnants of darkness which shroud our lives. Illumine us by Your Word that we may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory and be confirmed in the ways of life and light for the honor of Your holy Son, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

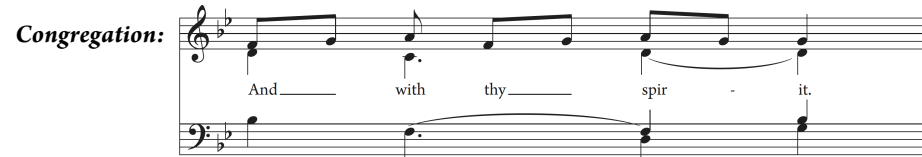
Minister: “Arise and hear the good news of God’s forgiveness: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”



† 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 #6 (SH) *“Te Deum”*

THE LORD INSTRUCTS US

THE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

Cong: *“Thanks be to God.”*

CONGREGATIONAL PSALM

Psalms 72:1-11

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1-12

Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”

Cong: *“Thanks be to God.”*

† HYMN #154 *“As With Gladness Men of Old”*

† READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Minister: “The Gospel of our Lord.”

Cong: *“Praise be to You, O Christ.”*

† THREE-FOLD ALLELUIA:



† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *“Wise Men From the East”*

Pastor Steve Wilkins

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY #71 (SH) *“Brightest and Best”*
(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 #155 *“All Praise to Thee Eternal Lord”*

† 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 #75 (SH) *“Saw You Never in the Twilight”*
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