

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–FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Today marks the beginning of the season of Advent – which lasts from today to Christmas Eve. REMEMBER: We have printed family devotional guides for you to use in your family throughout the season. If you would like to use these, feel free to pick up your copies in the foyer.

DR. SCOTT ANIOL PREACHING: It’s an honor to have Dr. Scott Aniol preaching this morning in our morning service. Dr. Aniol is the President of G3 ministries and Professor of Pastoral Theology at Grace Bible Theological Seminary. And, in addition to all this, he serves on the board of our Redeemer School of the Arts. It’s a privilege to have him with us this morning. Please pray for God’s blessing upon His Word.

Monday–BRIDAL SHOWER: All ladies are invited to a shower honoring Hailey Walters, Monday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. at 3309 Montaigne Place, Monroe. Bring an tree ornament, gift card, or cash. Make plans to be there!

Wednesday–SESSION MEETING: The elders will hold their regular, monthly meeting, this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Please pray for God’s blessing upon our men as they meet together.

Friday–ADVENT HYMN & PSALM SING: We will have our first Advent hymn and psalm sing, this coming Friday evening at 7:00 in the fellowship hall. We’ll sing and have food and a great time of fellowship. Make plans to come!

Saturday–MAKERS MARKET: The 2025 “Makers Market” will be held here at COTR this Saturday, December 6 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the work of our local artists!

Next Sunday–HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP: Next Sunday we will have High School Fellowship after evening service. All high schoolers are welcome so plan to come!

UPCOMING:

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDES: Remember! Advent devotional guides are available your family devotions during each week of Advent. Pick up your copies on the tables in the foyer!

MONROE SYMPHONY CONCERT: The Monroe Symphony will present a chamber concert, “Holiday Brass,” Tuesday, December 7, 2025, at the Grace Episcopal Church.

DYC FALL CONCERT: The Delta Youth Chorale will present its Fall concert, on Thursday, December 11, here at COTR. This is going to be a glorious time of great music, including Vivaldi’s “Gloria”, so make plans to come and enjoy!

2026 CHRISTENDOM LECTURES: This coming January, we will host our 26th annual Christendom Lectures from January 5-7, 2026 (“Surprised by God”). Our speakers are: Victor Lee Austen (canon theologian of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, Texas), Jason Staples (assistant professor at North Carolina State University and author), and Jeff Meyers (author, pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri). COTR members may attend at no cost, if you register before the deadline (December 24, 2026). Mark your calendars and plan to come!

CALENDAR

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

December 1 – Bridal shower in honor of Hailey Walters, 7:00 p.m. (3309 Montaigne Place)
3 – Session meeting, 6:30 p.m.
5 – Advent Hymn/Psalm Sing, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
6 – Makers Market, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
7 – Second Sunday of Advent
High School Fellowship after evening worship
9 – Holiday Brass, Monroe Symphony, 7:00 p.m.
11 – DYC Fall Concert, 7:00 p.m.
12 – Advent Hymn/Psalm Sing, 6:30 p.m., at Ed & Heidi Lang’s home
14 – Third Sunday of Advent
Second Sunday service, 6:00 p.m.
Pizza fellowship afterwards
19 – Advent Hymn/Psalm Sing, 6:30 p.m., at Paul & Micah McCoy’s home
21 – Last Sunday of Advent
24 – Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.
25 – Merry Christmas!
28 – No Evening Service
29 – Cross-Hicks Wedding

January 1 – Happy New Year!

Feast of Christ’s circumcision
5-7 – 2026 Christendom Lectures
6 – Feast of Epiphany
11 – Second Sunday service, 6:00 p.m.
18 – High School Fellowship after evening worship

NURSERY WORKERS FOR TODAY:

Infant: AM: Tammy Seal, Jamie Cychosz
Floater: Lila Jane Vaughan

Toddler: AM: Drew Nash, Brode Huber
Floater: Eli Richey

NEXT WEEK:

Connie Merritt, Elisabeth Brown
Annabelle Huber

Matt Wilkins, Arthur Richey
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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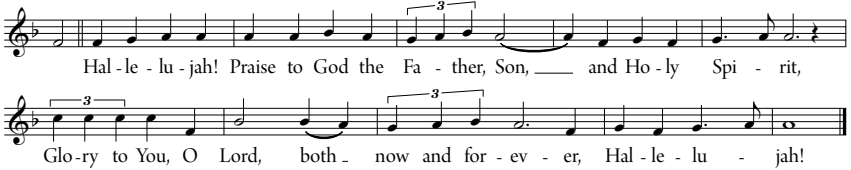
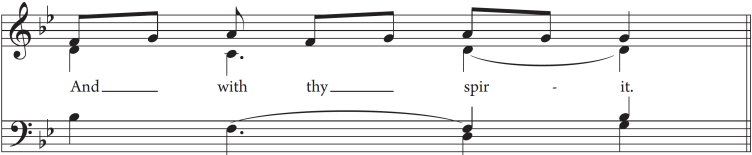


THE LORD’S SERVICE

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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 #41 (SH)	“ <i>Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending</i> ”
+ 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: “ <i>And with your spirit</i> ”	
Minister: “Surely, I am coming quickly,”	
Cong: “ <i>Amen! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!</i> ”	
Minister: “ <i>Hear, O God, my voice in my complaint; From dread of the enemy preserve my life . . . But God will shoot at them with an arrow . . . All who see them will shake the head. And all men will fear, And will declare the work of God, And His work will understand. The righteous will rejoice in Yahweh, And will take refuge in Him, And they will celebrate, all the upright in heart.</i> ” <i>Amen.</i>	
THE LORD CLEANSSES US	
CONFESSION OF SINS:	
Minister: “Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God”	
Cong: <i>Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You, through ingratitude, disobedience, & hardness of heart. We have not heeded the warnings of Your prophets & apostles nor lived as those who await the appearing of Your Son. We have loved the world & the things of the world, & have not sought Your Kingdom and righteousness. Wherefore we beg You, be merciful to us. Forgive us for our sins & deliver us from all evil & the evil one, & lead us in the ways of righteousness & peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</i>	
+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.	
Congregation:	
	
Minister: Lift up your hearts.	
Congregation:	
	
Minister: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.	
Congregation:	
	

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 saying:”	
+ SANCTUS (p. vii, SH)	
+ PRAYER OF ADORATION	
+ CANTICLE #3 (SH)	
“ <i>Magnificat</i> ”	
THE LORD INSTRUCTS US	
THE LESSON	
Isaiah 2:1-5	
Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”	
Cong: “ <i>Thanks be to God.</i> ”	
CONGREGATIONAL PSALM	
Psalm 96	
THE EPISTLE	
Romans 13:8-14	
Minister: “The Word of the Lord.”	
Cong: “ <i>Thanks be to God.</i> ”	
+ HYMN #145	
“ <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> ”	
+ READING OF THE GOSPEL	
Matthew 21:1-11	
Minister: “The Gospel of our Lord.	
Cong: “ <i>Praise be to You, O Christ.</i> ”	
+ THREE-FOLD ALLELUIA	
	
READING OF THE TEXT:	
Psalm 122	
SERMON	
“ <i>An Advent Ascent</i> ”	
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION	
Dr. Scott Aniol	
GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS	
OFFERTORY #45 (SH)	
“ <i>O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide</i> ”	
(the congregation will sing this hymn)	
+ DOXOLOGY	
(We lift our hearts, voices, and hands in praise to God)	
+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US	
HYMN #52 (SH)	
“ <i>The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns</i> ”	
+ PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:	
Minister: Lord, in your mercy,	
Congregation: <i>Hear our prayer.</i>	
+ THE LORD’S PRAYER: page <i>ix</i> (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 #31 (SH)	
“ <i>Arise, Sons of the Kingdom</i> ”	
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.” <i>Amen.</i>	
THE LORD COMMISSIONS US	
+ HYMN	
“ <i>Nunc Dimittis</i> ”	
+ BENEDICTION	
+ THREE-FOLD AMEN	