



JANUARY 21, 2024  
ORDER of WORSHIP

LITURGICAL  
DEFINITIONS

Music Leader:  
Cory Sellers

Liturgist:  
Mary Doty Lyness

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship** (*Psalm 62:5-8*)

Leader: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from him.  
He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;  
I shall not be shaken.

**All: On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
my mighty rock,  
my refuge is God.  
Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us.**

**How Firm a Foundation**

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How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

**Prelude**

This is a time when we prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies to meet, and be met by God, the Creator and Redeemer of all things. It is often an instrumental piece played by the worship band; however, it is sometimes used to introduce new songs into corporate worship.

**Call to Worship**

We need to be called to worship God because our hearts and minds are not naturally focused on him, but on ourselves. The Call to Worship marks the official beginning of the corporate worship service and directs our hearts, minds, and volitions toward God.

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

This prayer addresses God in his triune nature as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Praise and adoration continue and we ask him to be present with us and usher our hearts into corporate worship as he has promised by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Call to Confession (Genesis 15:1, 5-6)

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:  
“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

## LITURGICAL DEFINITIONS

### Corporate and Silent Confession

Because sin is so pervasive in both our corporate and individual lives, we come before God with honesty and transparency, confessing our sin and need for grace, asking for both forgiveness and healing through Jesus Christ. We confess corporately to show our unity even in our brokenness. Because the world around us is filled with so much noise, we take several moments of silence to meet with God individually about our sin and seek his forgiveness and grace.

## Corporate Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Gracious Lord, all of your promises in Christ Jesus are yes and amen, and all your promises shall be fulfilled. Yet, we live at times as if there is no God. Forgive us for the times that we seek to live apart from you.

**People:** **Though we break our promise to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, your love for us is steadfast and endures forever.**

**Leader:** Though our faith is feeble and unstable, your faithfulness is firm and unyielding.

**People:** **Though we are often heartless and dull in our devotion, you pursue us with relentless grace.**

**Leader:** Though we are prone to make excuses and falter in our commitment to you, you have confirmed and fully counted the cost of your love toward us in Jesus Christ.

**All:** **Holy Spirit, come and strengthen us in our weakness. Renew us and restore us to live under the rule of your faithful and loving promises to us in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Word of Absolution

The Word of Absolution is the declaration of God's forgiveness and redemption spoken with joy. The liturgist is proclaiming what God has done through Jesus Christ. It is usually a passage of Scripture or a traditional text from a historical church resource such as the Westminster Confession or the Book of Common Prayer.

## Silent Confession

*Please use the words above in your silent confession.*

## Word of Absolution (Romans 3:22-26)

<sup>22</sup> For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us;  
Took the blame, bore the wrath—We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed  
Crowning your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows his head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;  
“Finished!” the vict'ry cry.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live,  
Won through your selfless love.

*This, the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.  
What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.*

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer – Mary Doty Lyness**

**All:       Our Father, who art in heaven,  
              hallowed be thy Name,  
              thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
              Give us this day our daily bread.  
              And forgive us our trespasses,  
              as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.  
              And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
              For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever,  
              and ever. Amen.**

**Dismissal to Children's Church (4-year-olds to 2nd graders)**

If you are visiting or this is your children's first time, please escort them to the foyer. You may pick them up from downstairs after the service.

**The Offering**

**There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood**

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There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains:  
lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;  
and there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away:  
Wash all my sins away, wash all my sins away;  
And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood shall never lose its power,  
till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more:  
Be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;  
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream thy flowing wounds supply,  
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die:  
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;  
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

Offering

We display our dependency on God's provision by giving tithes and offerings. Because money is so powerfully tied to our hearts, we give in order to free our hearts from money's tyranny and in doing so, giving becomes a joyous response to God's grace.

## A Bond in Blood

Sermon: Rev. Al LaCour

### GENESIS 15:1-21

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

<sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

<sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

### The Sermon

A sermon is not just teaching for living; it is mainly a time when God encounters his people through his Word. Therefore, as you listen, pray to be open to what he is teaching. Pray for the person preaching. Pray to encounter the life-changing Christ as you listen. If you don't own a Bible, please feel free to take one from the shelves in the foyer.

### Preaching Today

**Reverend Al LaCour** is a retired PCA pastor. After graduating from Georgia Tech and Westminster Seminary, Al served for 30 years as a church planter and senior minister for four PCA churches. Al then led and developed RUF International, a ministry that equips Christians to welcome international students into their lives and churches. Al and his wife, Elaine, have been married for 49 years. Church of the Redeemer is their home church. They have two adult children, and they enjoy being “Gigi and Papa” to their three grandchildren.

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Communion trays include both red wine and white grape juice. The bread is gluten-free.*

### PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Lord Jesus, closely grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and author of my faith. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in his hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at his voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

*Behold our God seated on his throne  
Come, let us adore him  
Behold our King—nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore him*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of his words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon his hands?  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

*Men: You will reign forever (Repeats)  
Women: Let your glory fill the earth (Repeats)*

## Benediction



### CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER'S VISION

To be transformed by God's mercy and grace into a community of priests engaged in his redeeming work in Atlanta and the world.

*All Songs Public Domain or Used by Permission, CCLI# 1377822 | All Scripture taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

## LITURGICAL DEFINITIONS

### The Lord's Supper

In the Lord's Supper, Christ meets his people in spiritual communion with his strength, healing love and enabling grace that allows us to live as his disciples in the world. As we receive the elements, we lift our hearts up to Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, when God renews his covenant with his people in corporate worship, he serves a meal as the pinnacle of that event. Jesus continues this pattern in the Lord's Supper with his disciples. Thus, the Lord's Supper is placed towards the end of the service after God has ministered to us through his Word.

The Lord's Supper is for those who know their need for Jesus and cling to him as their only hope for salvation. If you wish to refrain from partaking in the Lord's Supper, prayers are printed in the Worship Guide to help you put words to where you are in relation to God.

### The Benediction

At the conclusion of the final song, the Benediction is given. It is a reminder that Christ has ordained his people with a blessing that equips us to serve and honor him with our lives as we proceed from corporate worship. The Benediction serves to end corporate worship and to send God's people out into the world.

## TODAY

### Welcome to Redeemer!

We are delighted to welcome you today! To learn more, visit [www.redeemeratlanta.org](http://www.redeemeratlanta.org) or contact [info@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:info@redeemeratlanta.org).

### Hearing Devices for Worship

In-ear hearing devices are available at the sound board for those who need assistance.

### Giving at Redeemer

Support the ministry of COTR by giving during the offering, by mail, through your bank, or online at [redeemeratlanta.churchcenter.com/giving](http://redeemeratlanta.churchcenter.com/giving). You can also Text2Give by texting any dollar amount to 84321.

### Church Center App

The Church Center app is our hub for giving, events, directory, prayer guide, and more. Visit [redeemeratlanta.churchcenter.com](http://redeemeratlanta.churchcenter.com), or download the app using the QR code. In the app, search for Church of the Redeemer and then log in with your phone number. For access to the church directory or questions, contact [elise@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:elise@redeemeratlanta.org).



### Sunday School Classes

Sunday School for all ages is held weekly at 9:30 am, and nursery care is provided for 0-4. Redeemer's Kids (PreK-5th) meet downstairs, and Refuge (6th-12th) meets in the youth room. Adults may choose from two classes:

- Book study of "Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners," by Dane Ortlund, led by Ben Simpson in the church office
- Video study of "No Other Gospel: Paul's Letter to the Galatians," by Ligonier Ministries, led by Todd Currey in the Commons

## Children's Church

Children ages 4 through 2nd grade are invited to join us for Children's Church today. Prior to the sermon, they will be dismissed to meet Ms. Meg in the foyer and be escorted to Children's Church in room 104 in the Children's Center. You can pick them up there immediately after the service.

### Refuge (Youth Group)

Refuge, our 6th-12 grade student ministry, meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am and Sunday evenings from 5-7:30 pm for games, dinner, worship, and study. Email [kerry@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:kerry@redeemeratlanta.org) to be added to the Refuge email list.

### Pathway:

#### 4th and 5th Grade Ministry

Pathway is a monthly opportunity for 4th and 5th graders to join with Refuge during their Sunday gathering and take a step into community and discipleship with their peers. Students can be dropped off this evening from 5-7:30 pm for dinner, games, fellowship, and small group study. Contact [meg@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:meg@redeemeratlanta.org) for more details.

## THIS WEEK

### Wednesday Night Online Prayer Meeting

We meet at 8 pm weekly to pray for the needs of our community and the world. The meeting link and prayer guide can be found at [bit.ly/COTRprayer](http://bit.ly/COTRprayer). To submit a prayer request, fill out today's blue sheet or email [seya@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:seya@redeemeratlanta.org).

## UPCOMING

### Lunar New Year Outreach, February 10

Imagine being halfway around the globe, far from home, when you long to be with family and friends during your country's most treasured holiday. On Saturday, February 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Redeemer is inviting over 100 Emory and Georgia Tech international students and scholars for food and fireworks to celebrate Lunar New Year/Spring Festival. We need volunteers to help! Sign up to volunteer at [bit.ly/lunar-new-year-2024](http://bit.ly/lunar-new-year-2024) or fill out a blue sheet today!

### Building and Grounds Work Day

Save the date for Saturday, February 24, from 9 am to noon, as we work together on projects to beautify and maintain our church property! More details to follow.

### 2024 Cherokee Mission Trip

Consider joining the Redeemer team for our annual mission trip to Cherokee, June 15-22! Lodging is at Camp Living Water in Bryson City, NC. Individuals and families are invited to participate, and no experience is necessary. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to David Scott ([david@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:david@redeemeratlanta.org)) or Bobby Lester ([invest@bobbylester.com](mailto:invest@bobbylester.com)) by January 31, or fill out a blue sheet today.

## ONGOING

### Serve Redeemer's Kids

We would love for you to be a part of the joy of discipling our children! Contact Children's Ministry Director Meg Way at [meg@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:meg@redeemeratlanta.org).

### Find a Group or Study for You

Redeemer offers a variety of men's and women's Bible studies, affinity groups, and community groups. View them at [bit.ly/COTR-groups](http://bit.ly/COTR-groups).

### Women's Slack Group

To connect with other women at Redeemer, join our Slack group, a place for sharing prayer requests, practical needs, social gatherings, and more! Email [elise@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:elise@redeemeratlanta.org) to be added.