



JANUARY 28, 2024  
ORDER of WORSHIP

LITURGICAL  
DEFINITIONS

Music Leader:  
Cory Sellers

Liturgist:  
Kevin Roberts

**Prelude**

**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.

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship** (*from Psalm 111*)

Leader: Praise the LORD!  
Great are the works of the LORD.  
Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

All: **He sent redemption to his people;  
Holy and awesome is his name!  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!**

**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.

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love.  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou the Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.  
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

**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.

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

## Call to Confession (Genesis 18:1-3)

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup> and said, "O LORD, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant."

### 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.**

### Silent Confession

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

### Word of Absolution (Isaiah 55:1-3)

<sup>1</sup> Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

### Come, Ye Sinners

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity joined with power.  
He is able, he is able, he is willing; doubt no more.

Come, ye needy, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money, come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall.  
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous—sinners, Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;  
all the fitness he requires is to feel your need of him.  
This he gives you, this he gives you—'tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of his blood.  
Venture on him, venture wholly; let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus, can do helpless sinners good.

## 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.

### 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.

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer – Elder Kevin Roberts**

**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**

**Thy Mercy, My God**

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
the joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue.  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.

Without thy sweet mercy I could not live here,  
sin would reduce me to utter despair.  
But through thy free goodness my spirits revive,  
and he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
which wonders to feel its own hardness depart.  
Dissolved by thy goodness I fall to the ground,  
and weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great father of mercies, thy goodness I own,  
and the covenant love of thy crucified son.  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine,  
seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine  
seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!

**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.

## Welcoming the Lord

Sermon: Rev. Al LaCour

### GENESIS 18:1-18

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

<sup>2</sup> He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup> and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup> while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

<sup>6</sup> And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in

the tent.” <sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

<sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

<sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’

<sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,

<sup>18</sup> seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”

## 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 STRUGGLING WITH SHAME AND GUILT

Lord Jesus, help me believe that there is full forgiveness for those who repent and put their faith in you. Give me faith to believe that sinners are welcome to the Lord's Supper to receive real forgiveness, grace, and strength. 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 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.

## Let Your Kingdom Come

Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.  
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.  
We ask not for ourselves, but for your reknown.  
The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your kingdom come."

*Let your kingdom come, let your will be done,  
so that everyone might know your name.  
Let your song be heard, everywhere on earth,  
till your sovereign work on earth is done.  
Let your kingdom come!*

Give us your strength, O God, and courage to speak.  
Perform your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.  
Lord, use us as you want, whatever the test.  
By grace we'll preach your gospel till our dying breath.

## 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.

## 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

Join us Saturday, February 24, from 9 am to noon, as we work together on projects to beautify and maintain our church property! Sign up at [bit.ly/COTR-workday](http://bit.ly/COTR-workday).

### 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. We will meet next on February 18 from 5-7:30 pm for dinner, games, fellowship, and small group study. Contact [meg@redeemeratlanta.org](mailto:meg@redeemeratlanta.org) for more details.

### Vacation Bible School

Join us for VBS 2024: Olympion! Held at Redeemer June 3-7, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, students will explore the story of Joshua and learn to run the race of faith. The cost is \$10. Register your rising PreK-5th grader at [bit.ly/2024-VBS](http://bit.ly/2024-VBS).

### 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.