



The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

The Second Sunday after Christmas

Holy Eucharist Rite I | 8:00 am
January 5, 2025



See inside cover for artist reflection

Welcome to Church of the Redeemer! We have a vision of a worshipping community that **knows Jesus and grows in love**. A community that is **united** in relationships of holy connection and communion. A community **growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion. A community **inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us. A community **sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness. Come, join us on the journey.



ARTIST REFLECTION

Chosen Home

Digital painting with collage

By Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:41-52

We don't know why Luke is the only gospel writer to tell us this story of Jesus as an adolescent. Luke offers us short vignettes of Jesus' life after his birth: he's circumcised and dedicated to God, he's blessed by both Simeon and Anna in the temple, and each year he and his parents return to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. His family follows the law according to Moses. This Messiah is not an outsider to the tradition; he's born from within it. But he will grow to question, challenge, reform, and revolutionize it.

We see Jesus' first challenge to that system in this story when, as a twelve-year-old boy, he stays behind without his parents' permission. He dives so deeply into the teachings that he shocks his elders, amazing them with his autonomy, knowledge, and earnestness. His actions threaten the status quo and also create a divide between him and his family of origin. To fulfill his ministry, he'll need to leave his home, his parents, and many of his faith traditions behind.

As I created this image, I felt the grief and tension shared by Jesus and his mother. The distance between them is poignant and heavy. Young Jesus looks over his shoulder at what he must leave behind as he moves forward in the other direction. His mother grieves what she can't fully understand, but she holds all of these things in her heart, keeping them forever. A dividing line made of gold separates them—but this boundary is also sacred and needed for Jesus to live into the fullness of his calling.

No matter the boundaries we choose or are forced to put into place, no matter the separations we endure, we must trust that we deserve true belonging. We must seek our chosen homes and families. When necessary, we must question and challenge the traditions we've inherited. Ultimately, we must trust that our true home belongs with God.

The Collect

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

The Response

Psalm 84:1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of
springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The New Testament

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Participants

Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Philip DeVaul
Deacon The Rev. Gary Lubin
Lector Peter Merten
Lay Reader Mark Sesler
Intercessor Margie Johnson
Bread Guild Brian Babb

Altar Guild

Andrea Rogers, John Morabito, Pattie Kovach, Julia Joyce

Flower Guild

All Members

Commissioning of Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Celebrant

In the name of God and on behalf of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

New to Church of the Redeemer?

Ready to learn more about our ministries?



Considering membership? Use the QR code at the left to join our Newcomer group and receive information about ministries, events, membership and access to our CoR App.

Calendar

Church of the Redeemer offers a variety of worship, education, and fellowship events for all ages. A quick glance at our calendar provides a look at both our recurring opportunities, as well as those special events we have throughout the year. You can access the church calendar on our website under the Connect tab, on our CoR App using the Calendar button, on our TV sign in the narthex (lobby), and by using the QR code at right.



Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Beth Weinewuth, *Senior Warden*

Mark Sesler, *Junior Warden*

Carter Kemper, *Treasurer*

Kelly Schlecker, *Asst. Treasurer*

Pattie Kovach, *Clerk of Vestry*

Kathryn Albertson, *Liturgy Board Co-Chair*

Steve Zimmerman, *Liturgy Board Co-Chair*

Andrew Cole, *Stewardship Board Co-Chair*

David Haffner, *Stewardship Board Co-Chair*

Larry Kissel, *Mission Board Co-Chair*

Elizabeth Coley, *Mission Board Co-Chair*

Matthew Solomon, *Education Board Co-Chair*

Bain Massey, *Education Board Co-Chair*

Amanda Rasche, *Pastoral Board Co-Chair*

Cynthia Walker, *Pastoral Board Co-Chair*



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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



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2944 ERIE AVENUE | CINCINNATI, OH 45208
(513)321-6700 | WWW.REDEEMER-CINCY.ORG