

Welcome

We welcome you to this Advent service! We hope you feel free to join us again at Christmas or at any time. We wish you God's peace and joy.

Service of Healing and Remembrance: Thursday December 17 at 7:30pm

This service is for all those for whom Christmas might be a difficult time due to the loss of a loved one or any reason. This service acknowledges our griefs and losses and offers prayers for healing and hope. This year, this service will be held on Zoom. Please mail the church office or watch the weekly email newsletter for the Zoom link.

Christmas Eve Worship: December 24

Creche Service

The children's Christmas pageant, sing-along carols, and a special children's Christmas message will be part of a short video service that will be available for viewing anytime on the church website on December 24.

Christmas Eve Service at 8:00pm

Our main service of Christmas Eve will be live-streamed from the Sanctuary at 8pm onto the website and Facebook. Special music from the choir and a sermon from the Rector will be part of this Holy Eucharist to celebrate the birth of Christ.

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, December 12 | 4:00 PM Sunday, December 13 | 9:30 AM

Pre-Prelude (The Pre-Prelude will begin at **3:45** on Saturday, December 12)

Interlude, from A Ceremony of Carols Benjamin Britten

Carol Medley I: What Child Is This; Lully Lullay: Il Est Ne

Carol Medley II: Joy to the World; Hark the Herald; Nowell Sing We

Church of Our Redeemer - Gilded Harps Trio, December 2015

During the pre-prelude, you are invited to gather into a peaceful area of your home, perhaps dimming your lights, and lighting candles as you settle in to a place of contemplation and prayer.

Prelude I Wonder as I Wander John Jacob Niles

Guilded Harps Trio - Church of Our Redeemer, December 2015

Felice Pomeranz, Harp, Fernando Brandao, Flute, Timothy Roberts, Cello

Introit O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, V. 3 9th c. Plainsong

Atrium Singers, Congregation and Riverview Chamber Players

Church of Our Redeemer, December 2016

O come, o come great Lord of might who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe

Congregation Response:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Presider Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and our joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God

until the glorious redemption brought to us by the holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died, and especially for God's Church in our country and in this town.

And because God particularly loves them, let us remember in God's name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God Jesus' pure and lowly mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen**.

Meditation

Twas in the Moon of Wintertime Trad. Huron Carol Redeemer Adult Choir – Recorded and mastered, November 2020

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled, that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead; before their light the stars grew dim, and wondering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found; a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round, but, as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:

(continued next page)

3. The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.

The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

Opening Collect

Presider Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Presider Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Processional Of the Father's Love Begotten (Divinum Mysterium) 11th c. Plainsong Adult Choir, Atrium Singers, and Renaissonics, December 2017

1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Atrium Singers and Congregation: Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
gers and Congregation: Evermore and eve

Atrium Singers and Congregation: Evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Atrium Singers and Congregation: Evermore and evermore

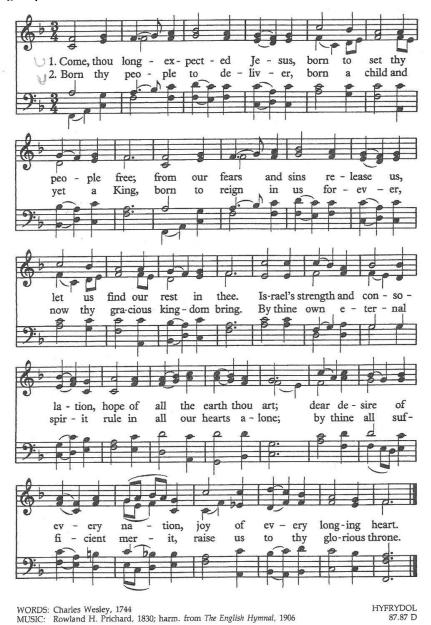
4. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Atrium Singers and Congregation: Evermore and evermore.

First Lesson:

God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.

Hymn Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Redeemer Choir and Congregation, December 2019

See next page



Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Reader The Word of the LordPeople Thanks be to God.

Elizabeth Poston

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree Redeemer Adult Choir – December 2017 Soloist: Marie Efromson, Soprano

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen Laden with fruit and always green The tree of life my soul hath seen Laden with fruit and always green The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree

2. His beauty doth all things excel By faith I know but ne'er can tell His beauty doth all things excel By faith I know but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

3.For happiness I long have sought And pleasure dearly I have bought For happiness I long have sought And pleasure dearly I have bought I missed of all but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

4.I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest a while
I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest a while
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

5. This fruit does make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive
This fruit does make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Second Lesson:

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

Hymn Cold December Flies Away, v. 1 & 2

Redeemer Choir, Congregation and Renaissonics, December 2017

Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.

April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders at the holy unseen power of the tree which bears the flower.

On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flower, on the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen,
All the world lay under death, eyes were closed in sleeping
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy,
brings the endless joy of our hope,
highest hope,
of our hope's bright dawning,
Son beloved of heaven.

Genesis 3: 1-15

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him,

"Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** Thanks be to God.

Anthem In A World Where People Walk in Darkness R. Willis/J. Harper

Redeemer Adult Choir – Recorded and mastered November 2020

In a world where people walk in the darkness, let us turn our faces to the light, to the light of God revealed in Jesus, to the daystar scattering our night.

Refrain:

For the light is stronger than the darkness and the day will overcome the night, though the shadows linger all around us, let us turn our faces to the light.

In a world where suffering of the helpless cast a shadow all along the way, let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness and proclaim the dawning of the day.

Refrain

3. Let us light a candle in the darkness, In the face of death a sign of life: As a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless, as a sign of peace in place of strife.

Refrain

Third Lesson: God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption

Comfort, comfort ye, my people, v. 1 & 3 Hymn Blue Hymnal 67 Choir, Congregation and Renaissonics, December 2017 1 Com fort ple, ye peace, thus fort, com speak ye peo 2 Hark, of the voice one that cri eth in des - ert crook - ed, 3 Make straight what long make the rough - er ye was saith God; who dark our com fort those sit inness far and near, call ing to re - pent ance us new pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum mourn ing 'neath their sor rows' load. Speak to Je ye since the king dom now here. Oh, is that warn - ing be - fits his ho ly reign. For glo as the ry 0 of them; ru sa - lem the peace that waits for o - bey! God Now pre - pare for way; cry a shed of the Lord o'er earth is a - broad; now tell that Ι her her sins cov er, let the val leys rise him to meet all flesh shall and the to ken see and her war fare now is o ver. greet and the hills bow down him. to

that

the

word

is

nev

er

bro

ken.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** Thanks be to God.

Anthem How shall I fitly meet Thee? from <u>The Christmas Oratorio</u> J.S. Bach Redeemer Adult Choir and Cleary String Quartet, December 2013

How shall I fitly meet Thee, And give Thee welcome due? The nations long to greet Thee, And I would greet Thee, too.

O Fount of light, shine brightly Upon my darkened heart, That I may serve Thee rightly And know thee as Thou art

Fourth Lesson: A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts

Hymn BH 65 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Blue Hymnal 65 Redeemer Choir, Congregation and Renaissonics, December 2017



Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Reader A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The Word of the LordPeople Thanks be to God.

Anthem E'en so Lord Jesus Quickly Come
Redeemer Adult Choir, December 2013

P.O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him,
who freed us from our sins, who loved us all,
And shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord;
the Lord almighty God who was and is, and is to come.
Sing holy, holy Lord.
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein.
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon.
E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more.
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Fifth Lesson:

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand

HymnSleepers, wake! v. 1-3
Redeemer Adult Choir-Recorded and mastered November 2020



(continued next page)



Baruch 4: 36--5: 9

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader The Word of the LordPeople Thanks be to God.

Anthem And the glory of the Lord, from <u>The Messiah</u>

G.F. Handel

Adult Choir and Cleary String Quartet, December 2013

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it

Sixth Lesson:

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

Hymn *Isaiah the prophet has written of old* Choir and Congregation, December 2019

Wonder, Love, & Praise 723

1 Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God's earthly kingdom shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song, the peoples be led forth in peace; for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the seas.

2 Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent from child. Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth; the brier and the thorn grow wild. Lord, hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth, when no one shall hurt or destroy, when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land and your people shall go forth in joy.

Isaiah 7: 10-15

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** Thanks be to God.

Anthem

There is no Rose

Mvt. 3, Allegretto, from A Ceremony of Carols

Redeemer Adult Choir and Felice Pomeranz-Harp, December 2015

There is no rose of such vertu As is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia, Alleluia.

For in this rose conteinèd was Heaven and earth in litel space Res Miranda, Res Miranda. (Miraculous thing ...)

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma, Pares forma. (Created in the parents' image ...)

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"
Gaudeamus, Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice ...)

Leave we all this werdly mirth, And follow we this joyful mirth. Transeamus, Transeamus. (We are transformed ...)

Seventh Lesson

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High

Hymn Sing we of the Blessed Mother, v. 1&4 BH 278 Adult Choir, Congregation, and Renaissonics, December 2017

I Sing we of the blessed Mother who received the angels word, And obedient to his summons bore in love the infant Lord; Sing we of the Joys of Mary at whose breast that child was fed Who is Son of God eternal and the everlasting Bread.

4. Sing the chiefest joy of Mary when on earth her work was done, And the Lord of all creation brought her to his heavenly home:
Where raised high with saints and angels In Jerusalem above
She beholds her son and Savior Reigning as the Lord of love.

Luke 1: 26-38

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How

can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the LordPeople Thanks be to God.

Anthem Nova, Nova C.P. Daw/15th c.

Redeemer Adult Choir and Renaissonics, December 2017 Soloists: Linda Kukolich, Soprano and Murray Daniels, Baritone

Nova! Nova! Ave fit ex Eva! (News! News! "Ave" has been made from "Eve"!)

1. Gabriel of high degree, He was sent from the Trinity From Nazareth in Galilee ...Nova!

2. He met a maiden in that place; There he knelt down before her face; And said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"...Nova!.

3. When the maiden heard his song, She was filled with confusion strong And feared that she had done a wrong ...Nova!

4. Said the angel: "Have no fear; By conception without compare The Savior Jesus shall you bear."...Nova!

5."There are yet but six months gone Since Elizabeth conceived John To be the herald of God's Son" ...Nova!

(Continued next page)

6. Said the maiden "Verily, : "I am your servant right truly, The handmaid of the Lord now see."... Nova!

Collect of the Season

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying,

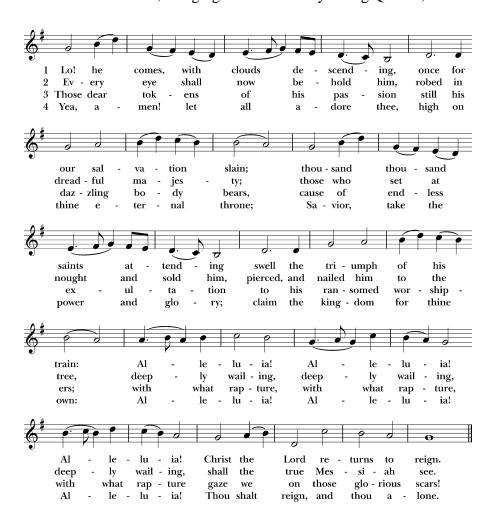
May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen**. May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen**.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen**.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**.

Hymn *Lo! He Comes*Adult Choir, Congregation and Cleary String Quartet, December 2013

Hymn *Lo! He Comes* Blue Hymnal 57 Adult Choir, Congregation and Cleary String Quartet, December 2013



Dismissal

Acolyte Go in Peace. The Christ is coming. **People** Thanks be to God.



6 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA 02420 781-862-6408 | www.our-redeemer.net office@our-redeemer.net The Rev. Kate Ekrem, Rector
The Rev. Frank Fornaro, Interim Clergy Associate
Dr. Bernadette Colley, Music Director
Mrs. Peggy Kelly, Parish Administrator
Mr. Roy McHoul, Sexton