

# CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE 2007

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WELCOME TO REDEEMER

**If you are a guest**, the people of Redeemer are delighted that you have joined us this evening. We pray that your Christmas worship will encourage, inspire and strengthen you for the days and weeks ahead.

**If you are a member of Redeemer**, save a moment in your prayers to thank God for the joy of worship in this beautiful church.

**To all who are present** on this sacred evening, may the love of God, made manifest through the gift of Jesus our Lord, bless and keep you now and forever.

Child Care is available at the 8:30 p.m. service.  
Ushers will be happy to direct you to the Nursery area.

Everyone is invited to a reception in the Sims Atrium following the 8:30 p.m. service.

### **Worship at Redeemer**

Words to be spoken or sung by the congregation are indicated in bold type or marked with a **☐**; text marked with **P** or **A** is spoken or sung by a pastor or an assisting minister. Please stand or kneel as you are able for the indicated portions of the service. Please lower your kneelers quietly during prayer.

### **Attendance Register Pads**

Please let us know you worshiped with us today by signing the attendance register pad as it is passed down your row. As you return it, take a moment to read the names of those seated around you so you can greet them after the service.

Please indicate in the attendance pad your intention to receive Holy Communion. If you are visiting, please include the name and address of your home church so we may notify them.

### **Please Visit Redeemer Again**

We hope you will return to Redeemer often and consider us as your church home and family! Join our television congregation by watching "Redeemer's Music and Message" on the AIB (Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters) local cable network. Check your local cable system for the channel number. Times are, Wednesday at 6:30 a.m., Thursday at 11:00 p.m., and Sunday at 3:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

You will also find helpful information about Redeemer's ministries through our website at [www.redeemer.org](http://www.redeemer.org).

## CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

### **PRELUDE**

*A Medley of Carols* trad. French, German and English

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* trad. English

(This song compares the birth of Christ to a dance in which everyone is invited to participate)

Christine Drescher, Harp; Richard Jones, Woodwinds, Jerry Fields, Percussion  
Christiane Jones and Jesse Jones, Vocals

*Noël (Grand jeu et Duo)* Louis-Claude Daquin  
Organ

*Joyous Christmas Song* arr. Paul J. Christiansen  
The Redeemer Choir

*O magnum mysterium* Giovanni Gabrieli  
Brass and Organ

*The Dream Isaiah Saw* Glenn Rudolph  
The Redeemer Choir, Organ and Brass

*Prelude on 'The Holly and the Ivy'* Herbert Sumsion  
*Stille Nacht* Aaron David Miller  
Organ

## WELCOME AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP

*Standing*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

*Standing*

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

## SALUTATION

☐ The lord be with you

☑ **And also with you**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen**

*Seated*

## THE READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (Page 600)

*After the reading*

The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*Standing*

**GOSPEL PROCESSION** *Good Christian Friends* IN DULCI JUBILO  
(Stanzas 1 and 2)

**GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20 (Page 54)

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter  
*After the reading*  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**GOSPEL PROCESSION**

*Good Christian Friends*  
(Stanza 3)

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Seated*

**SERMON**

The Reverend Dr. Michael W. Foss

*Standing*

**SERMON HYMN**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*Standing*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*Seated*

**OFFERING**

**ANTHEM**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Antonio Vivaldi  
(1678-1741)

*Standing*

**HYMN**

*From Heaven Above*  
(Martin Luther wrote this hymn for his children.)

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

☐ Let us pray. Blessed are you,  
☑ **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

☐ It is indeed right and salutary ...and join their unending hymn:

☐ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish, but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**☞ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**ℙ** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**☞ 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 trespass 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**

*Seated*

### **COMMUNION**

All who seek to meet the Risen Christ in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion. Communion will be offered by intinction. There are seven stations: two at the altar rail, two by the chancel steps, two at the back of the sanctuary and one on the balcony. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles. To receive the wafer extend your hand, palm up, and then lightly touch the wafer to the burgundy wine, or the white colored grape juice held by the assistant. If you would like the pastor to place the elements on your tongue, fold your hands and keep them folded in front of you. Children who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward with their parents for a blessing, folding their arms across their chests as a signal to the pastor. Communion will be served in the pews to those who cannot come forward; please inform an usher. Gluten free wafers are available.

*Standing*

**ℙ** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

*The congregation may kneel during the prayers and remain kneeling during the singing of "Silent Night."*

**P** Let us pray. God our Father, You have brought us again to this glorious night when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Because of Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds and the manger, we know you as one who is not out there somewhere beyond us, but as one who is very close in our lives, identified with infants as well as infinity, with stables as well as stars. We praise you and give you thanks for this wondrous birth which has brought us your great and powerful love.

**C Amen**

**HYMN**

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

**BLESSING**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**SENDING**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*March of the Three Kings*  
Organ and Brass

Robert MacDonald  
based on a Provençal Carol

**C A R O L S   D U R I N G   C O M M U N I O N**

**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**AWAY IN A MANGER**

**WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**