



I LOVE LENT

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who the season. tire of seeking his mercy — Pope Francis

As an introvert, I love Lent. Actually, it is my favorite season of the church year. Selfishly, I love to sing the anthems in minor keys because they tend to sit so well in my voice. I don't have one of those beautiful soaring soprano voices. No, mine is more like dark chocolate mousse that's been left in the refrigerator too long. That's not the only reason I love Lent though. For me, Lent is a season of opportunity.

Perhaps, like me, you were brought up in a tradition of self-denial. You must give something up for Lent. It wasn't supposed to be easy but nobody ever explained to me why I was sacrificing like Jesus. Sorry, but my giving up potato chips and Pepsi like I did this year just doesn't seem to equate with Jesus being tempted in the desert and giving up his life. However, every single time I have to fight back the cravings for those salty chips or that Pepsi after choir rehearsal, I use the moment to empty myself and just ask God to enter.

So, what is this opportunity? For some, Lent offers learning experiences such as those being offered at Redeemer this year: Anglican Theologians, Table Talk, Morning Prayer, Group Spiritual Direction, History of Slavery: Reconstruction, or Evening Meditative Service. For me, Lent is the spring cleaning of my soul. It allows me to get into all of those cobweb

(sin?)-laden corners and sweep them out – preparing myself for the joy and the light of Easter. It's hard to go through the Lenten season when you have a delicious secret – we know how it ends. We're too busy rushing through Lent to get to Easter; Lent makes us uncomfortable; we don't like being reminded that we may have behaviors that need to be given up or exchanged; we don't like actually realizing we're not in control. If we could just stop wasting our time rushing to get somewhere else, we might actually be able to enjoy the present, and to feel the love, grace and forgiveness of God as His peace enters our soul.

Wherever you are in your Lenten journey, I pray that you have taken the time to truly enjoy the season

Peace - Jo Senior Warden



Our Spaces

By now, the bathrooms are presentable. I would still like to ask if anyone has pothos or philodendron cuttings that I could start at the windows; they are lowlight, easy-care plants to improve the spaces further.

Spring is bringing the grounds into flower. We are already seeing daffodils and crocuses opening. The beds are being cleaned, pruned, weeded, fertilized, etc. by Vazquez Landscaping. The roses have their own crew: Jo Barclay-Beard, Merry Bruns, and Susan Grigsby have all taken a hand in their care and the blooms will be beautiful for the whole summer.

The labyrinth will also be weeded. This sacred space is one of our most visible invitations to the community at large, in the coming warm weather, with the Sunday walks with Melinda Nelson and Dominique Rychlik. Please enjoy a meditation together with them or in a quiet moment alone.

Silvia Maza Iunior Warden

Dear Friends,

The cherry blossoms greeted Steve and I as we returned from our time away. I love spring. It's a time of renewal and earthiness. It's no wonder our ancestors chose to observe Passover/Easter during this season. We inherit the stories of liberation at the same time green shoots poke their heads from the loamy dirt and proclaim that what appeared to be gone is new again.

Taking nature as a guide, we learn that renewal comes from a place of humbleness. To be humble means knowing where we belong. It means being down to earth (hubris). You might even say it means being connected to the earth. While we were in Arizona, we took a side trip to Monument Valley before we began our odyssey of baseball games, hot dogs, and adult beverages. Nature did some extraordinary work there.

Monument Valley is a tribal park. It is part of the Navajo Nation. According to our Navajo guide, the area had been under water for millennia. The water and the wind sculpted the sandstone buttes and towers that you see today. It was as impressive as the Grand Canyon, maybe more. Not much greenery around, just some juniper and hedge that emerges from the sides of the rock where the water seeps from below. The rest of the color rested in the red and brown hues.

We learned about the movie industry's impact on this place. John Ford and John Wayne made many films here. And, you know that scene in Forrest Gump when he turns back to Alabama on that long road with the sandstone sculptures behind him? Yep, that was made there too.



The Navajo understand the sacredness of this land. Families still reside in the valley using solar panels to generate electricity. We smelled the juniper as it was burning inside their dwellings to heat them. There was a sense of peace there. Peace in the grounded-ness of the people and of the landscape. Yet, I knew I didn't belong there. It was Navajo land. Land sovereign to them and shared with us. That was humbling.

This Eastertide, I believe that my prayers and practice will be in search of the peace of earthiness. I invite you to join me in renewing our commitment to Christ, who humbled himself and showed humanity that we are worth being in God's presence.

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The Sundays of April this year encompass a significant span of the liturgical spectrum—from The Last Sunday in Lent, through The Second Sunday in Easter—a sweep that includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil of Easter, and Easter Day (not to mention Monday through Wednesday in Holy Week).

All that, in a month of Sundays, is a LOT to take in—more than we can easily manage to wrap our minds around. The images, stories, ideas, and feelings—both portrayed and evoked—run the full gamut of human experience: anxiety—haunting apprehension excitement—escalating dread—expressions of affection and connection—confusion—betrayal terror—denial—abandonment—crushing, helpless guilt—utter devastating loss—and, at the end, coming to terms with what's "too good to be true." If ever there were a month in which the mixing of metaphors is unavoidable, THIS month is THAT month! So—herewith a set of suggested metaphorical clusterings for walking The Way of the Cross enroute to Celebrations of Resurrection:

• **Lent 5** (4/3—John 12:1-8):

Defying Dread with Sensual Extravagance

Fingers and feet. Fragrant oil, flowing hair.

What do we do for those whom we love, when there is "nothing that we can do"?

• Palm Sunday (4/10—Luke 19:28-40, 22:14-23:56):

Cheering and Jeering—Dual Paradings in Opposite Directions

Carrying palms, bearing a crossbeam. Hollering both HOSANNA and CRUCIFY.

In what kind of groundswells—one way and another—have we found ourselves swept up?



• **Maundy Thursday** (4/14—1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35)

Breaking Bread—Washing Feet

Hands that share food—hands that clean dirt—hands that help—hands that connect.

How and when have others reached out to us in "hands on" ways?

• **Good Friday** (4/15—Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; John 18-19)

Encountering Suffering Servant—Great High Priest—Truth-Ful Witness—Other-World King

"Where ARE you FROM?!" Roles of Jesus—seemingly incongruous, yet inseparably connected

Into what "boxes" do people try to put Jesus? What "sides" of Him have we encountered?

• **Easter Vigil** (4/16—Exsultet)

Seeing Life in Resurrection Light

A fire kindled in the night. Candle flames, Community conveyed and lifted. "Let there BE light"/"In YOUR light we SEE light"—How does Sacred History "shed light upon our path"?

• Easter Day (4/17—John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12)

Seeking the Living Among the Dead
In the grip of grief, surprised by joy.

"Seeing" and "believing" in wrestling interplay
By what means are we able to "make any sense" of the Resurrection?

 Second Sunday of Easter (4/24—John 20:19-31)
 Hiding Out in Fear—Finding Faith in Seeing Wounds

Bolted doors subverted by Forgiving Peace. Breath-conveyed Spirit-power for passing Peace along.

Where have we found ourselves "behind locked doors"? How does Forgiving Peace get

Rev. Dr David Schlafer + Assisting Priest

to us anyway?

Francis and John

I have been thinking often lately of the instruction of Saint Francis of Assisi to "Preach the Gospel at All Times, Use Words When Necessary". The fact checkers of the world say he never said this but instructions similar to this show up in the Franciscan Rule of Life and so I feel no need to attribute it elsewhere! What has kept my mind and heart on these words of late are the horrible things we continue to hear from areas of the world where we cannot be present and are really not able, except monetarily, to do much help at all, be that in the Ukraine, or elsewhere where injustice and hatred seem to have the upper hand. It is so very easy to despair of the goodness of humans when we are inundated every day in the news and elsewhere with the results of their cruelty and disregard for the rest of the human family. Those are really good propaganda techniques. Keep your eyes on the injustice, you will never see the shoots of justice, mercy and lovingkindness sprouting up all around you! God calls us despite news of magnificent hardship, cruelty and hatred, not only to believe in the ultimate victory of good over evil but to actively work for the good, to lay our own life down for the benefit of the other and to keep on doing it every single day in every way possible. In participating in works of mercy and justice, our own souls are filled with the life-giving grace of God's Holy Spirit and are moved to hope instead of despair. You will rarely find someone who, en-



gaged in good works on behalf of others, does not feel that they receive mush more than they give. It is part of some divine economic system that rewards us in our souls for cooperating with God's plan of building His kingdom. We are caught up into the divine dance of grace along with God who enables it!

If you are skeptical, I urge you to become involved and catch the good infection of love that God is waiting to help you to catch and which will raise your resistance to despair and hopelessness. We are meant to expose the whole world, and especially the little piece in our own backyard to God's infectious love. If you have trouble imagining how you might be used, have health limitations, mobility limitations, time limitations, imagination limitations, please come and talk to me and let me help overcome those! I have ideas galore and would love to engage with you in a conspiracy of good works. I will leave us with the instructions of Francis and those of John Wesley (founder of Methodism) to ponder for this month:

"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can"

John Wesley

The Peace of Christ enfold and inspire you!

Rev. Adrienne Clamp Deacon

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Momento mori

I remember sitting through a high school English class, learning about Shakespeare the day my teacher introduced us to the concept of "Momento Mori." He used the famous gravedigger scene from Hamlet to explain the comfortable familiarity medievals had with death and their proclivity for centering life's brevity by keeping skulls on their desks. Remember you must die. Momento Mori. It sounds like something Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 7, "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for this is the end of everyone, and the living will lay it to heart." Perhaps it's because my mom died when I was young, but I found the concept strangely comforting rather than off-putting. After her death, I'd showered with books and messages about the wonders that await us on the other side of death. I'd never questioned God's goodness in that respect. Maybe that's why I found the message intriguing rather than terrifying? I don't know. What I do know is it felt like solace to release a tight grip on my own ideas about life; to identify myself with something far more cosmic in scope. Life isn't so small as to be contained merely by human skin.

Jesus taught that a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die before it can produce fruit. And clearly his own death and resurrection story offer us a glimpse into the power of resurrection. There's a reason the Eucharist is still the central component of our gatherings after two thousand years.

This isn't a purely Christian concept, however. Many other religions, traditions, and stories share the theme. The Hindus worship Shiva, the god of death and recreation. And the Phoenix is born in glory out of the ashes of his death. There is something universal about this ancient wisdom.

Last week I found myself wandering the quiet hills of Arlington National Cemetery. The trees had begun to blossom, and it was a beautiful day. Looking out over the endless headstones, contemplating mortality in the middle of Lent, I felt surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. I found myself among friends I couldn't see. Their wisdom whispers that human life is a both a gift and a trust. We are given a short time to grow and bloom, to love and to be a blessing. We are the gardeners entrusted to tend the soil of our mortal existence for ourselves, for others, and for the glory of God. Walking among the stones in the fragrant, flowering, spring of new growth, I was re-inspired to live an intentional life.

I wonder, as we move from Lent into Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, what have we let die, what seeds have been broken open, and what tender sprouts need to be watered in order to allow new life to grow? How can we participate in Easter by purposefully living into the resurrection?

Becki Casey Seminarian



Waste Time with Jesus

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday – April 10th. In the week that follows, the church has several liturgies to mark the last week of Jesus' life. Participating in these liturgies connects us with the past and connects past and present. Through them we are a part of the crowds witnessing the events that bring us salvation.

On Palm Sunday, we gather in the parish hall to distribute the palms. We'll make a raucous parade as we walk outside (weather permitting) up the hill, and into the narthex. Those who prefer may take the inside route with the elevator! The Passion Narrative is performed by lay readers and the deacon. We need lay readers – lots of them – so please contact Deacon Adrienne to volunteer.

Monday evening, join Phil Toro as he leads the musical meditation providing time for reflection and renewal.

On **Tuesday of Holy Week**, it is tradition that the clergy and laity of the diocese gather at the Cathedral to renew their baptismal covenants and ordination vows. The bishop will bless holy oils that day for parishes to use over the next year. Please take time to pray for the clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese of Washington.

Wednesday. please join us for Bible Study at noon on Zoom. The link is on our website. Go to the Christian Formation link and click the Join button.

Jesus broke bread with his disciples and bid them remember him. We commemorate the Institution of the Lord's Supper on **Maundy** Thursday at 7pm with Holy Eucharist. Also available that evening will be foot washing, which is optional. The directions for foot washing which are a bit different this year, will be provided that evening. Our overnight vigil will once again be virtual. Tune in to the Music at Redeemer YouTube channel to pray and keep watch.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Betheda, Maryland, USA

On Good Friday, Redeemer plans two services. At noon, walk The Way of the Cross, also known as Stations of the Cross. This service marks the moments of Jesus life from his condemnation by the Temple authorities to the verdict of death from the Romans to the cross and burial. The second service is the Good Friday Liturgy. It's comprised of lessons, the Passion according to John, Solemn Collects, and the veneration of the cross. This service begins at 7pm.

Redeemer joins St. Dunstan's, our sister parish, for the Great Vigil of Easter at St. Dunstan's at **7pm.** In this service we 'crossover' from Lent to Easter by lighting the Paschal Candle, hearing salvation stories, renewing our baptismal covenant, and celebrating the first Eucharist of Eastertide.

On **Easter Sunday**, come to church to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ at 8:00am and 10:30am. There will be hot cross buns, thanks to Sr. Warden Jo Barclay-Beard. At the 10:30 service, the KASSIA Youth Orchestra will see its debut accompanying our choir for the Mozart Missa Brevis.

Yes, this is a lot of church. When else do we have the chance to spend this much time with Jesus? It's really not a waste; it's a privilege. Easter means more when you've walked the week along side our Lord.



The Redeemer Spirit

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MANNA

Every week we take items to Manna Food Center. Please remember to bring food for the basket at the altar. This is a spiritual practice that keeps our baptismal promise active.

Protein items are especially needed.

All items must be non-perishable.



Thank you to all the youth and family members who participated in the Bethesda Cares food prep on March 27th! We are grateful to be part of a community who values helping and sharing resources of time, talent, and food packing. Many hands made light work and much fun.



Pancakes!!!

We were delighted to reinstate the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper this year. It was a great joy to share a meal together after being so careful for so long! We appreciate all of you who participated in the cooking, eating, and clean up. Mostly we give thanks to God for the grace to remember how good it feels have wonderful conversation, tasty food, and shared laughter.









"WHERE YOUR HEART IS...

...there your talent be also." Is kind of what Matthew says in chapter 6:21. The text is often used at pledge season for investing in a place, and it works very well with the sweat equity of volunteerism on which the non-profit sector is founded, and which in the church gives us the hands, eyes, feet, and heart of Christ in our community. There are no other explanations



for why choirs are so devoted to hours of hard work, personal preparation and practice, why volunteers trudge out on a cold and wintry night for the sometimes not much warmer church! I can't tell you the number of times I have seen my breath and stopped feeling first my fingers and then my toes in less-well-appointed English and continental churches. And as we finally, hopefully, see the end of the cold frosts and celebrate rebirth of spring, it is also wonderful to find that people

are moved once again to bring their gifts to new initiatives. One such initiative is that of new Vestry member and tenor section leader. Phil Toro, who has brought back the Monday evening spot for candlelit reflection in the sanctuary, (previously Taizé) and cast it in a more spacious canvass. The third iteration of this meditation hour is scheduled for Monday of Holy Week, and I commend it and the labyrinth walk afterwards. My thanks to Phil and his volunteers for opening the sanctuary to our neighbors for worship on a different day, and in a different way. It's one of the many signs of hope in this year of renewal and opportunity following our double-whammy of flood and COVID.

The Chamber Music Day led by KASSIA was a huge success and we hope to have two of those a year to bring in young families and their talented offspring. We will be welcoming some of them back on Easter Day.

On Lent IV, one of those coincidences happened. Lenten words that echo for Mariupol and elsewhere, scripture harmonious across history and continents. The text of the motet ended with the words quoted by Pope John Paul II, and re-quoted at the top of President Biden's speech the night before from Warsaw Castle: "Be not afraid". Despite calling out evil for what it is, our representative on the world stage cast his message in the light of our shared faith. Like the elevator (commissioning) music being in the same key as its chime for Bishop Budde, it feels like we are sometimes in tune with events so far and yet so close to home when these resonances occur, when the planning of weeks ago is harmonious in near real time with the dreadful reality of Putin's disgusting and inhumane aggression.

But it was the words of the motet which hit home most of all to us who sang it, channeling our imagined anguish of the

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Betheda, Maryland, USA

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very young, and the very old and infirm who remain in the city-sized concentration camps of Ukraine:

> Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta. Sion deserta facta est, lerusalem desolata est.

Geoffrey Silver Director of Music Ministries

But art is about expressing what the spirit wants

to do, even if the body cannot.

So we sing.

Your holy cities are destroyed. Zion is a wilderness: Jerusalem is a desolate ruin.

It is difficult to feel like we can do anything about these things so far beyond our control.

STOP PRESS: Alkemie, our April concert guests artists who are performing on Friday, April 29, will now **not** be needing hosts, which is good, as there are now nine of them!

"Friday Nights at Redeemer"

JOIN US every Friday in May and June for an informal two hours of music, refreshments and friendship downstairs with the MAR-KASSIA co-curated series, "Friday Nights at Redeemer".

More details soon.



SAVE THE DATE!

RE-ESTABLISH your family TRADITIONS!

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, THANKSGIVING WEEKEND:

Family entertainment with big screen Charlie Brown and the Eric Byrd Jazz Trio.

www.musicatredeemer.org



Mystic, medic, and musician, Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) expanded both Christian theology and the humoral theory of Galen to connect the viriditas (living greenness) of plants and the metaphorical viridity of spirituality directly to the human body and its functioning.

This program with nine musicians situates Hildegard's music within her understanding of medieval plant medicine, sharing her vision of an earth-bound transcendence that connects humans to the divine through spiritual "greening" and the five senses. Her beliefs are mirrored in the music she wrote for her nuns—ecstatic chants in which unfurling branches, earthbound roots, and medicinal spices are depicted in soaring melodies that swirl throughout an almost three-octave range.



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TAX DAY IMPLICATIONS

As part of the annual American ritual of 'Tax Day' I've been asked to talk about how your contributions to Redeemer are recorded. Redeemer, as a Church, is a non-profit organization. Under non-profit accounting rules there are two types of contributions: Unrestricted contributions that pay for the Church's operations expenses (Administration, Maintenance, Personnel, and Programs), and designated or restricted donations that fund a particular program or expense.

Unrestricted Contributions are the contributions that fund the Church's operations. They are classified as Pledge, Over Pledge, and Non-Pledge on your contribution statement. If your check, cash, DAF, stock, or Vanco contribution does not specify a specific purpose of the donation, it will be classified as one of these. Unrestricted funds can be used for any legal expense of the non-profit organization. These donations are vital to keeping the Church open and operating.

Designated and Restricted Funds are contributions that have been donated for a specific purpose. These funds are permanently restricted to that purpose and cannot be used for other Church expenses. If your check, cash, DAF, stock, or Vanco contribution has a memo that it is for a specific purpose, Redeemer is obligated to spend your contribution for that purpose. We track these

contributions by their intended use. Examples at Redeemer include Toy Sunday, Afghan Relief, Friends of Music at Redeemer, etc. These fund accounts are increased with the specified donation and decreased with expenses for the specified purpose. Restricted or designated contributions are shown on your contribution statement with the purpose of the restricted fund. They do not count towards your pledge.

I wanted to be sure that the community recognizes how contributions are treated and the importance of your unrestricted donations. Redeemer is a giving community, and we appreciate your support!

Margaret Church Bookkeeper



Each Wednesday at Noon, the clergy and curious lay folk gather on Zoom to read and discuss the scriptures coming up that Sunday. It's a free-flowing, question-raising, and sometimes challenging conversation that many times leads the assigned preacher into new territory. Think of it as one of the 'prequels' to your experience of worship-you'll hear the readings again, in a different voice, and sometimes you will hear elements of our discussion bubble to the surface of the actual sermon. Bring your study Bible and join us this week. The Zoom link is on the Redeemer home page.

Budget Overview

			Jan Feb.	
Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement -	lan Fah	lan Fah		Annual
	Jan Feb.	Jan Feb.	Over (Under)	Annual
February 28, 2022	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
INCOME				
2022 Pledge Payments	162,880	156,063	6,816	422,830
2022 Additional Pledges	700	4,528	(3,828)	27,170
2022 Over Pledge	835	1,529	(694)	5,000
2022 Non-Pledge	7,421	4,500	2,921	27,000
2021 Pledges	4,980	0	4,980	0
Loose Plate Offering	651	0	651	0
Special Offerings	0	400	(400)	2,400
Event & Activity Income	0	8	(8)	2,050
Facilities Use	1,285	767	518	4,600
Other Income	(1,875)	833	(2,708)	5,000
Total Income	176,876	168,629	8,248	496,050
EXPENSE				
Administration Expense	7,731	7,550	181	45,300
Diocesan Giving	5,833	5,833	0	35,000
Discretionary Account	0	0	0	0
Maintenance Expense	13,879	11,677	2,202	70,060
Personnel Expense	43,822	45,219	(1,397)	271,314
Program Expense	4,247	4,383	(136)	26,300
Property Expense	7,792	7,833	(41)	47,000
Total Expense	83,304	82,496	808	494,974
Net Operating Income	93,572	86,133	7,440	1,076

Treasurer's Report

Church of the Redeemer's operating results through the end of February are set forth in the adjoining table. Pledge income was above budget in January and below budget in February, but remains above budget year-to-date. Monthly budgets are, in general, based on even allocation of the annual budget over the year, so comparisons of monthly results with monthly budgets can be significantly affected by timing of expenses and payments. Accordingly, it is a bit early in the year to draw conclusions from monthly results versus budget in the absence of significant anomalies.

Since the adoption of the budget, Redeemer has received two new pledges, totaling \$7,800, which bring us closer to the \$27,000 goal in new pledges needed to balance the budget. The 2022 Additional Pledges line in the P&L shows contributions received pursuant to the new pledges.

Please feel free to contact me if have any questions about Redeemer's finances.

> Stephen L. Gibson Treasurer

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Blood Drive St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Parish Hall 5450 Massachusetts Ave Bethesda, MD 20816

Monday, April 18, 2022 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: "SDEC Bethesda" or contact David.Hull@redcross.org or call/text 240-676-9955 to schedule your life saving donation!!

Eligibility concerns, please call the Red Cross at 1-866-236-3276.

Please remember to wear a mask, bring a photo ID, eat a healthy breakfast/lunch and hydrate with plenty of water!!!



Come to give April 1-18 and get a Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last! It's our thanks for being part of our lifesaving team. Your donation can help patients get back in the game this spring!



Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Sunday is a work day for staff, so please try and avoid contacting staff members on Mondays unless it's an emergency.

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Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland, a parish community of "inquiring and discerning hearts", where you are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with difficult questions. We value an Anglican spirituality that is open to the mystery of the Holy and that celebrates the beauty of creation and upholds the dignity of every human being.

Redeemer is known for beautiful, reverent worship, excellence in preaching and music, and active outreach ministries to its neighbors.

Redeemer's local outreach ministries include support for Manna Food Pantry, sponsoring blood donation drives, and singing for persons who are ill or shut in.

No matter who you are or where you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here at Redeemer. We look forward to greeting you!

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