



MARCH 2022

# The Redeemer SPIRIT



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[www.RedeemerBethesda.org](http://www.RedeemerBethesda.org)





### OUTWARD SIGN OF AN INNER GRACE

Before I began putting away the Christmas ornaments and wrapping the Nativity set, I noticed that Brian had placed a mask right next to where the Nativity was displayed; it was a convenient place to just grab the mask and go. I was irritated because that bright white mask seemed so glaring and out of place next to the peaceful and serene setting. I removed it, he put it back, I removed it, he put it back. Then my EfM training kicked in. I spent several minutes over the course of a few days looking at that mask next to the Nativity and I began to reflect on how one small child was the outward sign of an inner grace. We put our faith in God and trusted the prophecies that this was the Messiah. Even today we keep trusting in God's word and in the living example of Jesus. We try to emulate Jesus' loving ways with strangers, the poor, the weak, the homeless, and anyone who is the "other", as well as our own families. That's when I saw the mask as an outward sign of an invisible grace. Nobody said wearing a mask would be easy or convenient. We put our faith in scientists and medical experts so that we are able to protect the stranger, the poor, the weak, the homeless and the "other", as well as our families. It is the recognition that we are all in relationship with one another and that our relationships are holy. Our faith tells us that we should "mask up" as we are responsible for one another. So – please "mask up" and live with God's grace and in the hope that we won't be in this pandemic forever.

Peace - Jo

**February was an eventful month.** We completed the renovation of the bathrooms and have reorganized some cleaning storage issues to make all the stalls accessible. If anyone has any extra philodendron or other low-light plants that they would like to donate, please let me know; greenery is always welcome.

The humidifier system which keeps the organ in good working order will finally be repaired on March 3. After that we will be researching a maintenance system to keep repair costs under control.

Pest control has been contacted about swarming insects, probably box elder bugs. They are coming February 28.

The under-cabinet light installation has been deferred to later this spring.

The grounds committee will meet mid-March to plan for beautiful spring gardens. If you would like to be part of this group and did not receive an email from Jo, please email me at [jrwarden@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:jrwarden@redeemberbethesda.org) so I may add you to the list. Everyone is welcome.

There are other plans for later in the year, electric work downstairs and polyjacking some sidewalk slabs. Please let me know what you think of those improvements you see and those improvements you think are needed. Let's make our building and grounds welcoming.

**Silvia Maza**



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

**Lent is here.** Time to take stock of our lives and address what needs to change. It's that give up or take on season. I know that Advent is the beginning of the church year. Lent, though, seems more of a "start over," especially this year.

There are a lot of activities that we'll be starting anew this year, God willing. Many begin this month. Phil Toro is working on a musical meditative service. For those who remember Taizé, this service will be similar. It promises to be a gift of calmness in a world of cacophony. The Strawberry Festival returns, but in May – May 21<sup>st</sup> to be exact. There were conflicts with the June dates for the co-chairs and the choir. Hopefully, we won't be rained on and the weather will be milder.

A number of educational offerings have been selected for Lent as well as the return of Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 9am. I'm sure Claudia Serrin, Jane Winer, and others who enjoyed this service and have passed from this life to the next will join and bolster our prayers from their spiritual realm.

We'll have a blast from the past on the first Sunday in Lent: Cranmer's Great Litany and the use of a Rite One Eucharistic Prayer. The rest of Lent continues our penitential journey with appropriate prayer and song. Read more about this in the Liturgical Update.

The pandemic cloud is lifting a little and we will rejoice in it, but it's not quite time for loud Alleluias in this regard. We will do our best to continue to care for our 'little ones'. There are children here who cannot be vaccinated and others who are immunocompromised. We have a moral obligation to protect them as much as possible. Please continue wearing masks to church. Warm weather means that we will be able to do coffee hour outside.

Our Sunday attendance has been increasing week by week. The Vestry has been hard at work planning our strategic steps into the future. Yet, if we want Redeemer to be a vital parish, everyone is needed. Ministries cannot be left to one or two people or to the staff. They belong to all of you.



Do you want coffee hour? Volunteer for a Sunday every six weeks. Does the Eucharist fill your soul as well as your body? Help us set and clean up the altar. Do you love to sit by the labyrinth or walk by the gardens? Grab a trowel and pull some weeds. Friends, there will never be enough money to hire enough staff to cover all that is necessary for our life together. Even if there was, that's not how Christian Communities are meant to be.

I also recognize that some folks are having difficulties right now. You may need to take smaller steps to reconnect with the church. If you wish to come by during the week and just sit in the sanctuary and pray, you can do that. Or, stop by the labyrinth if you're riding your bike or walking a dog. We're here to help you heal.

In the name of the Church, I invite you into a holy Lent.

**Rev. Cricket+**

**ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL** -- that was an ancient set of categories for classifying objects in the natural world. The typology is a bit crude for current scientific use, obviously; but it does provide some interesting illumination for the Old Testament and Gospel lessons we will hear in March during the first four weeks of Lent. Images of “animals,” “vegetables,” or “minerals” show up each Sunday—natural world “placeholders” that are sensory symbols for spiritual dimensions. As we move through a significant series of Sundays in the life of the Christian community, here are some striking metaphorical expressions of significant interpersonal relationships that can be found in these readings:

- ANIMALS:
  - A heifer, goat, ram, turtledove, and pigeon become occasions for God and Abram to reaffirm and solidify their covenant connection at a time when Abram worries that promises God made to him long ago would never be fulfilled. (Genesis 15:1-18—Lent 2)
  - Jesus depicts Herod as a fox and Himself as a hen with regard to their respective engagements with the people of Jerusalem. (Luke 13:31-35—also Lent 2)
  - A short story Jesus tells about a son first lost then found is punctuated by contrast between that son’s first having to feed pigs, and then being feasted with a fattened calf. (Luke 15:11-32—Lent 4)
- VEGETABLES:
  - A basket of produce—first fruits of the harvest is the designated offering that Israel is commanded in advance to offer when, at last, they arrive in the Promised Land, where (after years of wandering) they eventually come to a land flowing with milk and honey; where they cease eating manna, and begin to partake of unleavened cakes and parched grain. (Deuteronomy 26:1-11—Lent 1, and Joshua 5:1-12—Lent 4).
  - An unproductive fig tree is given another,

final chance in a warning story Jesus directs to those whose practices He regards as spiritually unfruitful. (Luke 13:1-9—Lent 3)

- MINERALS:
  - The devil employs a stone, and a temple tower as ways of trying to entice Jesus to compromise his Spirit-endowed identity as the Son of God (Luke 4:1-13—Lent 1)
  - A smoking firepot, a burning bush, and a burning bush (Genesis 15:1-18—Lent 2; Exodus 3:1-15—Lent 3) become ways God first gets attention from Abram and Moses, and then makes promises that leave a lasting impression and give specific direction.

What would be the “meaning” of these Scripture passages were the descriptions of physical objects excised from the accounts? What spiritual import would remain if the various interactions were described only in conceptual abstractions?

What objects in the “natural world” have served as reference points, or mark points—metaphors for your spiritual journeying? What dimensions of interpersonal relationships do they re-present for you? How do they mean more than the physical objects that “meet the eye”?

**Rev. Dr David Schlafer +  
Assisting Priest**



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



## Love is Practical, Not Theoretical

Someone, a nonreligious person, asked me the other day why I do what I do. It made me stop to think about the whole notion of what a life of loving and serving others is all about. It is not just about “being a deacon”, it is about participating in the creative work of the God who made me. The Torah (the law of Israel) is clear about the duty of those who believe in God to welcome the stranger. It is mentioned 36 times, much more than the commandment to keep the Sabbath. It also sets out as a commandment the care for the poor, the widows and orphans (who have no one to care for them in a patristic society) and by extension, those who for whatever reason do not have what is necessary to live a dignified life as part of society. It is more than a commandment, though.

This is participation in the plan of God for all of humanity. It extends to those who are different by reason of culture, religion, race, socioeconomic status, education, and any other measure we might wish to use. God set aside the Israelites to be a light to the nations (Is 60:3), an example of how to live life as God intended for all peoples, in all places and in all times. We, as the adopted children of the God of Israel, through Jesus, are meant to be that light as well. We have what we need, because God has called us, depends upon us and will provide for us the grace and guts to do His work in the world.

I encourage us each to look inside and find where we are being called to serve the world. It may be in big fancy ways, or in little and unseen ways, but I assure you that we are each called to be the agents of God in the here and now. Ask God where He has need of a servant and for the grace to step up to the task. If you cannot find a way to serve, ask the deacon for help. She is full of ideas and glad to help you find your particular service niche. If you are feeling inadequate to the task of being the agent of God, let me share a prayer that is posted above my workstation. It reminds me that all I need to do is ask.



Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

Open unto me - light for my darkness.

Open unto me - courage for my fear.

Open unto me - hope for my despair.

Open unto me - peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me - joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me - strength for my weakness.

Open un to me - wisdom for my confusion.

Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins.

Open un to me - tenderness for my toughness.

Open unto me - love for my hates.

Open unto me - Thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me.

Let us go forth to LOVE and SERVE the Lord and one another!

**Rev Adrienne Clamp  
Deacon**



**Unfamiliar Doorways**

In the middle of February, I spent a weekend at Richmond Hill, a monastery and retreat center, with the diocese of Virginia for a “discernment retreat.” The purpose of the weekend was to get away from normal life with a group of people who are all exploring their “call” into ordained ministry. It was equal parts awkward, scary, and exciting to enter into that space among a bunch of strangers and bare my vulnerable underbelly without any certainty of the outcome. I had spent years in prayer, and I knew what I believed to be true about myself and God’s direction for me. But this process was only partly about what I thought I knew. It was equally about what others sensed, heard, and felt on my behalf. Normal people in normal life do not expose themselves to this kind of bizarre unveiling and it felt every bit as unsettling as you can imagine.

One of the prevailing metaphors for the weekend was the idea of walking through doors. We are all familiar the act of knocking on doors, opening doors, and walking into rooms that are closed off by doors. This is a normal action we typically take for granted. The difference is that most doorways through which we pass, open into familiar spaces. We know what we will find on the other side of our front door, the church door, and the bathroom door. Most doors are unthreatening, or we are at least familiar with the threat on the other side. Most of us will experience very

few doorways, actual or metaphorical, in our adult lifetimes through which we will pass into genuine mystery. That is a comforting and grounding reality. The unknown can be scary, but it can also be exciting.

At the retreat we were invited to explore both the doorway and the space beyond into a room in which we had never before entered. I was grateful for the gentle invitation into the discernment process. As is the reality in life with God, some of my new friends felt like God had dragged them towards a door through which they did not want to enter. I, however, felt generously embraced by God, the facilitators, and the participants. One of the other metaphors we were given was that of a journey. The priesthood, like so many other things in life, is not a destination at which one arrives. Rather, it is a journey through which one travels. We were encouraged to be present, aware, alert, and joyful on every step of the journey. Some of us will stay in this new room for a long time, others will leave back out the same door through which we had just entered. Still, others, will walk through that room and pass beyond many more doorways on the journey into ordination.

I do not know if I will be ordained. That is not my decision to make (pray for the bishop). But I will be present on the journey, and I will continue to open new doors and step into unfamiliar spaces. I’d like to invite you to join me, not in my ordination process, but in being willing to step into the new doorways and new rooms presented to you. As we move into Lent, I pray that you too will be brave to trust God’s kindness as you’re invited to step into places that are unfamiliar and rooms that may even feel scary. Life is about the journey. Let’s trust God together!

**Becki Casey  
Seminarian**





### Liturgically Speaking

The 40 days of Lent don't include Sundays. Sundays are always "little Easters". Nevertheless, we acknowledge the penitential theme of the season with obvious liturgical changes.

The most obvious change is that the alleluias disappear. They will return during Eastertide. The flowers at the altar are 'Lenten Weeds' – a dried flower arrangement to help us remember that we are dust. The vestments and paraments are all purple now. The only exception to the purple is in the event of a funeral, where everything turns white for that service alone. So, please do your best not to die in Lent as it puts extra burden on our deacon to reset the altar.

Lent gives us the opportunity to experience services held only in this season. We start with Ash Wednesday. This liturgy is full of penitential prayers, psalms, and reminders of our mortality. The Litany of Penitence that we use this day can serve as an evening prayer option for families and individuals. Enriching our Worship is the source of our Eucharistic Prayer. The choir will provide musical reflections at the evening service.

On the first Sunday of Lent, prepare for singing! Cranmer's Great Litany begins the service. This sung prayer petition is one of the oldest prayers written in the English language. And, speaking of old, the Eucharistic Prayer will be from Rite One.

Subsequent Lenten Sundays will use Rite Two, Prayer A, which focuses on the cross.

Prayers of the People are being written by Deacon Adrienne. There will be significant amounts of silence for the congregation to add their own prayers. You may do this aloud or silently. You don't have to wait until another person finishes to start your own prayers aloud. There will be a natural ebb and flow through each petition. This method of prayers is an ancient one. It engages us more deeply into the prayers and helps us form stronger community. This is a time when we name before God all that we need or long for in our lives.

Geoffrey Silver is writing music for the Kyrie and Sanctus. We usually don't sing these pieces of the service in Lent, but since we spoke them in Epiphany, music will be a nice change for the season.

Next month's "Liturgically Speaking" will talk about Holy Week and the beginnings of Eastertide.

**Rev. Cricket+**



**LENTEN OFFERINGS****Anglican Theologians**

Mondays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 7, beginning at 7:00pm on Zoom

Over five meetings on Monday evenings in Lent, please join me for an exploration of the Anglican approach to theology, using a few short readings and a couple of video debates for discussion. We will assemble a chart of themes and proceed partly by chronology but bringing in contemporary ideas as we go. Participants should take away an outline of how our church has responded to some of the questions about the mystery we call God and resources for further exploration. The approach for this heavy topic will be lightened up with some easy trivia games. No prizes, but you find some way to fill in the blanks!

**Table Talk**

Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 8, beginning at Noon.

No stress, no agenda. Jo Barclay-Beard and Silvia Maza invite you to chat at noon time. Bring your lunch or grab something from the shops across the street. Enjoy some time away from your computer screen with Redeemer and neighborhood friends.

**Group Spiritual Direction**

Wednesdays, March 9 and 30; April 6 and 13, beginning at 10:00am.

“Do you seek God?” Sr. Rose Mary Daugherty considers this the common question for anyone searching for spiritual community. Participants in group spiritual direction rely on each other in seeking God. These seekers don’t look to fix each other. In fact, they may allow one to be held in prayer while navigating their brokenness.

Group Spiritual Direction consists of silent prayer, intercession, and sharing of stories amongst the participants. The sharing of stories launches our conversations. Due to

the depth of conversations hoped for, this course is limited to no more than 10 people and will be held in person. Participants should be able to attend all four 90-minute sessions.

**Morning Prayer**

Thursdays, March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7, beginning at 9:00am

Cathy Arrington leads this Prayer Book Office, which has had a long history at Redeemer. Come to St. Luke’s Chapel to pray for the world, the church, and families and friends near and far.

**The History of Slavery: Reconstruction**

Fridays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1 and 8, beginning at Noon

Karen Stewart continues to share her research and knowledge of America’s difficult past. Bring your lunch and join us in the Parish Hall.

**Anglican Theology****Five Weeks****Short Takes on Themes and Theologians**

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Lent Series on Zoom

Monday evenings 7:00 -8:00 pm

March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4

Facilitated by Marilyn Raisch.

Over five meetings on Monday evenings in Lent, please join me for an exploration of the Anglican approach to theology, using a few short readings and a couple of video debates for discussion. We will assemble a chart of themes and proceed partly by chronology but bringing in contemporary ideas as we go. Participants should take away an outline of how our church has responded to some of the questions about the mystery we call God and resources for further exploration. The approach for this heavy topic will be lightened up with some easy trivia games. No prizes, but you find some way to fill in the blanks!

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



Week 1: Theology in the Matrix: Thomas Cranmer, John Jewel, and Richard Hooker.

What is Theology? Is it different from Philosophy? Doctrine? Context and an Introduction to the English Reformation.

Week 2: Caroline Divines in War and Peace: William Laud, Jeremy Taylor

Writers on predestination, grace, and the beauty of holiness. Grace, Election, Predestination. Modern wars of words: Christopher Hitchens debate with Alister McGrath 2007(assigned video)

Week 3: Give us Some Latitude: William Law, Isaac Newton, Joseph Butler, Bishop Berkeley;

John Polkinghorne, the Wesleys. Deism, Natural Theology, Science and Revelation.

Week 4: Tracts for the *New York Times*: Anglo Catholic Oxford Movement, Rowan Williams in dialogue with Richard Dawkins (assigned video). Truth in Science and Society.

Week 5: The Church-Idea: Protons, Pronouns, and Critical Studies of Wealth and Race:

John Macquarrie, F.D. Maurice, Dorothy Sayers, C.S. Lewis, Sarah Coakley and gender, Desmond Tutu and *ubuntu*.

#### Sources and Suggestions for Further Reading:

Allen, Diogenes and Springsted, Eric O. *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*. Westminster John Knox Press. 2nd ed. 2007.

Chapman, Mark D. *Anglican Theology*. Bloomsbury, 2012.

Coakley, Sarah. *God, Sexuality and the Self: an Essay 'on the Trinity'*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Polkinghorne, John, ed. *The Work of Love: Creation as Kenosis*. Eerdmans, 2001.

Rowell, Geoffrey; Stevenson, Kenneth; Williams,



Rowan. *Love's Redeeming Work: The Anglican Quest for Holiness*. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Sayers, Dorothy L. *The Mind of the Maker*. 1941; HarperCollins, 1979.

Schmidt, Richard H. *Glorious Companions: Five Centuries of Anglican Spirituality*. Eerdmans, 2002.

#### Marylin Raisch



#### **Soup-er-Bowl Success!**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the youth group's soup drive for Manna. It was a tremendous success and a blessing for many. A huge thank you to our creative, energetic, and enthusiastic youth for making this event possible!

**SERVING REDEEMER**

Thriving congregations are led by the Laity and supported by the Clergy. Each of us has been given gifts by the Spirit to do ministry. Below are some ways you can serve Redeemer.

**Community Engagement** encompasses what was called “outreach”, activities and support linking Redeemer to groups/individuals working in the community towards shared goals such as food security, housing, etc. Committee members work with Deacon Adrienne and Vestry member Scott Williams.

**Member Connection** includes pastoral care, hospitality, welcoming, and events. This includes the Coffee Hour ministry, receptions, and fundraising events. We currently do not have a chair. Committee members help the clergy and Vestry member Toyin Rose.

**Worship** – advises clergy on liturgy and services. If you would like to become a part of this committee, contact Rev. Cricket.

**Music** – helps Geoffrey imagine and plan music offerings for the choir as well as the Music at Redeemer Concert Series. This committee is currently full. Please see Geoffrey if you would like to engage in this committee in the future.

**Buildings and Grounds** – the Junior Warden chairs this committee that oversees and maintains church property. If you would like to join, contact the Junior Warden at [jrwarden@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:jrwarden@redeemerbethesda.org)

**Education** - adult and youth, suggests opportunities for growth in learning on a variety of subjects. Steve Gibson and Melinda Nelson provide leadership for the Sunday School. Shannon Hoogerheide and Anne Peyer lead the Godly Play ministry. We need members to plan and execute Adult Formation opportunities as well as an overall chair for the committee.

**Stewardship** – includes the annual pledge drive but has a broader scope: how does Redeemer contribute to the care of all that God gives us (think ecosystems, rocks, rivers, clouds, sky). This is another committee that needs a chair. NO, this does not mean that you will be responsible for chairing the pledge drive every year. The pledge drive is a part of this committees work, but not the sum total of it.

**Finance** – oversees the budget and recommends actions to the Vestry. Russ Paulsen chairs this committee. Members are the Wardens, the Rector, the Bookkeeper (ex officio) and three at-large members of Redeemer.

If you are interested in participating in any of the above committees, contact Rev. Cricket at [rector@redeemerbethesda.org](mailto:rector@redeemerbethesda.org).

**Ministers Wanted!**Altar Team

Deacon Adrienne needs help. She has been setting up and cleaning up for Sunday services and it is not in her job description. She’s willing to share the duties. Redeemer has been without an altar team for over two years. Here’s what we need:

1. Someone to set up on Friday or Saturday evening, or early on Sunday morning, for the first service on Sunday\*. This includes coming to church, putting the chalice (silver cup) and paten (silver plate) in a “stack” with the appropriate color veil and placing it on the credence (table) next to the computer table. It includes placing a priests’ host on the paten and pouring a small amount of wine in the chalice, draping the chalice with a purificator (holy napkin), making sure there is a clean corporal (holy placemat) on the altar, and checking to be sure the oil candles have enough oil in them.

\*The 8:00am service will reconvene on Easter Day.

2. Someone to clean up after the first service and set up for the second (if there is one).



This entails taking the chalice, paten, and corporal to the sacristy (room to the left of the window when you are facing it), rinsing them if need be, and placing them in the bowl of water that awaits them. Then, if there is a second service, set up as in step 1.

3. Someone to clean up after the second service, if there is one, in the same manner as in step 2.
4. Someone to do the laundering of the linens on a weekly basis. (Thank you Cathy Arrington for volunteering for this specific task.)
5. Someone to order supplies (wafers, wine, candles, oil, palms, etc.)
6. Someone to polish the silver. It needs it badly.

There are no limitations on the age; gender; hair, lack of same, color of same; or confirmation status to be on the altar team. You should enjoy being in the church, helping the community be prepared for Sunday worship, and able to help once or twice a month and during Christmas and Holy Week. Plus, there are no brass rails to polish or carpets to vacuum. If you are under 21, you will need to be accompanied by a parent. You can do one, two or as many of these steps as you have time for.

[Adrienne](#) and Cricket will train you! We are grateful to Helen Zitomer, who chaired and scheduled the Altar Guild before she moved last year.

#### Office Assistance

Amma Cricket and Geoffrey need help. Could you spend some time in the church office during the week. We could use help with:

1. Answering the phones and directing messages to the appropriate people.
2. Copying the weekly service bulletins and getting them upstairs for the altar team.

3. Picking up around the building. Laura Rose was doing this.
4. Meeting contractors if the junior warden needs assistance with this.
5. Helping the staff gather stories and pictures for the monthly Redeemer Spirit.
6. Covering the office when the Rector is out for pastoral calls or when away. Times to be determined.

If you are so talented, we would appreciate help with:

1. Writing articles for the Redeemer Spirit.
2. Helping do the layout for the Spirit using Adobe Indesign.
3. Updating the hallway posters so that members see what's coming up at Redeemer.
4. Updating the Constant Contact file for This Week at Redeemer so that it is ready for proofing on Tuesday mornings.
5. Updating the Constant Contact file for the Friday Update so that it is ready for proofing on Friday mornings.

We are grateful to Becki Casey for helping us out during her seminary internship. Her assistance ends as she completes her middler year at Virginia Theological Seminary in May. [Steve Gibson](#) is coordinating the schedule for office volunteers.

#### Coffee Hour

We will resume having coffee hour after church on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. However, we need several more people to do this than Marie Caulfield and Chrissy deFontenay. If six-eight family units would volunteer, you would only do coffee hour once every other month. Here's what it entails:

1. Purchase cookies, cheese, crackers, veggies and/or fruit for 30 people. At this time, packaged goods (chips, cookies, etc.) are preferable. This

amount will go up as the attendance rises.

2. Come to church around 10:00am to set up. If we're outside, set up a card table for snacks, the rolling table for the coffee urn and Keurig machine.
3. Prepare the coffee in the large urn. Add 50 cups of water to the bottom of the urn. Place coffee grounds in the top and insert the top to the spindle and the spindle to the bottom of the urn. Plug the urn in before you go up to church.
4. After you receive communion, come downstairs to finish any prep work and be ready to greet parishioners.
5. Clean up when coffee hour is finished.

Contact [Cricket](#) for more information.

All of these lay ministries are vital for our life together. You can try it for 3-6 months and decide if you would like to do it longer. Please [volunteer](#) today.

### BETHESDA CARES

Redeemer is scheduled to prepare and deliver dinner for 30 homeless and hungry people on Sunday, March 27 at 4:30PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, 7500 Pearl Street, Bethesda, MD 20814. In order to do that, we need your help! Please sign up here [Sign-up Sheet](#) to bring one or more dishes, snacks or drinks. Thank you for your generosity, Sam Penn and Nico Hotes

**Nico Hotes and Sam Penn**

### MANNA

Ben Ivins take items to [Manna Food Center](#) every week. 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.



*Manna Gifts and Offerings*

### Afghan Refugee Family Support

We still need some items. Please help.

There are 43 families housed at a local hotel. They have some items but are missing a few essentials. We can use your help again to give them the small things we take for granted like shampoo, shoes, coats, sweaters, etc. A Walmart registry has been created. Please select the items and have them shipped to St. Johns Norwood Episcopal Church (address below). All items will be gathered here and delivered to the specific family in need. At this time, only new items are accepted per the registry list.

Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/3g3lvgV>

**\*\*Please be sure that items are "shipping", not marked as "pick-up at store"\*\***

Thank you again and again. Your generosity is overwhelming.

St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church  
Refugee Needs

6701 Wisconsin Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20814

Thank you, **Rev. Ann Derse, Deacon, St. John's**



**The Wardak family** has arrived in Silver Spring, MD after a long journey from Kabul. Hassan and Nijba along with their two young daughters, Halsu and Yursa, have journeyed out of harm's way to start their new lives here in the US. Hassan worked for the US Government in security and counter narcotics and is an impressive man, calm in demeanor and ambitious for his family to find their way in their new lives. Currently they are living in a large apartment building with some other refugee families. They are devout Muslims and attend a nearby mosque. They are receiving government support through programs set up for Afghans who had to leave their country last year with the return of the Taliban regime. However, we do not know how long these programs will last - it could be nine months or a little more. This remarkable family needs our help. Hassan speaks English but the communication is certainly not 100%. Some ESL teaching seems needed along with a preparation of the important Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Ben Ivins and Pat Fitzgerald met with Hassan in January and together they arranged for him to get a new suit, shirt, ties and shoes so that he could start interviewing for jobs. This family is resilient. Tom McNaugher arranged for a local mover to pick up furniture from his home in VA and deliver the items to their apartment in Silver Spring.

Looking ahead to what the Wardak family will need and what we can provide from Redeemer - these are the key questions. Two fundamental issues - Hassan needs a job. If anyone in the parish has some insights or connections that can help him find employment that would be huge. Also Hassan and his family need a car - if anyone has a used car that could accommodate a six feet four inch Hassan and his family it would be a blessing if this could be provided. He will also need driving instructions and help with passing the MD driving license tests. Looking ahead Hassan wants to attend college and study finance. Hassan and his family are proud, accomplished people

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



who have given their all for their country and now are willing to contribute to their new country. What a privilege it is to be able to offer some support to this remarkable family. We hope you will prayerfully consider what you might be able to do to help the Wardak family and contact our Deacon, [Adrienne Clamp](#) about this.

**Patrick Fitzgerald**



*Tom with Halsu and Yursa*




**Music at Redeemer**

**SEASON 2021–2022**

April 2	KASSIA MUSIC
April 29 (Friday)	ALKEMIE
June 11	Mozart Requiem at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

It's so good to be back! Well it finally feels a little more like normal. We're able to put more music back into our worship, sit a little closer to each other—and for me, it has been amazing to be able to follow the county rule and take my mask off when conducting. This has really helped communication and I honestly feel the Choir is happier when they can see how happy I am with their work and can encourage some healthy mouth shapes.

Now that Lent is here coinciding with the increased sense of safety, we are reintroducing robes (the changing space was very cramped), bringing back more congregational singing back into liturgy, and we will try processing again with introits and opening hymns starting at the back. I'm excited to be reminded of how the Narthex is with its newly finished floor—a place we have not sung since the elevator was blessed by the Bishop.



MARCH 2022





This month we have no MAR concert, but we need to be thinking of and telling our friends and neighbors about the two exciting April ones. We know how good KASSIA MUSIC is, and I'm delighted that we will see them and the kids' Treblemaker string quartet back for Easter Day, but ALKEMIE are going to be a real treat. I for one have never heard two of the instruments they're holding in their publicity shot. I recommend you visit their website, where some lockdown videos promise great things. **The end of April will be upon us before we know it, and I'm putting a call out for some hosts for these wonderful ALKEMIE musicians, for one night only.**

Last month we were host to the Potomac Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), and, amongst other things were treated to a piano and organ duet medley of spirituals, and had a chance to sing a hymn together which showed off the full range of colors and sheer

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

volume available on our instrument. It was also the first time I'd heard my Steinway expertly played in the sanctuary, which was a delight.

Music Committee met the last Sunday in February and Epiphany, and we discussed two or three major developments. First up, now that Friday evenings in our refurbished hall are available to us, we are going to be launching a "Friday Night At Redeemer" series, with refreshments, between 7pm-9pm every Friday in May and June. We will be casting our net widely, and will be treating the two-month period as a testing phase to see what we'd like to do in terms of frequency in the next September through June season. Now that the donated Yamaha grand is downstairs, we have an instrument that fits the occasion!

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to do a deep dive into both wonderfully poignant



and penitential hymnary, but also the wealth of music from masters of the Renaissance and Baroque, who paint the mood of Lent in vivid color. In the spirit of this, I take the opportunity to reprint an extract from my Lenten meditation that discusses one of our anthems, “Almighty and Everlasting God” by Orlando Gibbons.

*“Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth your right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”*

*...For Gibbons, it was obviously not the Merchant Ivory Productions make-up and fresh-from-the-costume-truck century that we have come to love. Life was hard: if you survived childhood illnesses, you might get burned at the stake—by other Christians—merely for wanting to chant in Latin. Perhaps because of this closeness to a more visceral experience of living, the way Gibbons sets the collect to music illustrates our most basic human needs: for a parent’s healing, and for protection.*

*In the opening phrases, each voice enters alone in canon, the top and most vulnerable voice entering last, when it is safest to do so, when the coast is clear. Without going into too deep a musicological dive on this, the core of the work is defined by the word painting of “S-T-R-E-T-C-H forth thy right hand” which appears suddenly in the relative minor mode (to suggest the presence of danger or uncertainty). Each vocal part calls for assistance as the texture builds through repetition and imitation on the text “to help and defend”. The top line cries “help” three times—emphatically on the same repeated pitch—finally rising a step to the third of the subdominant to force the 4-5-1 cadential progression, and end the uncertainty, safely in the home key for “through Jesus Christ...”... But the reason for all this musicological surmising is to take the opportunity to shine a light underneath the soaring soprano line, and point it*





The playful and imaginative clarinet and cello duet suite COVID composition by Sam Post

*at the tricky Jacobean syncopation in the alto part. Gibbons did not need to make this cadence this busy, but, just in the alto line, (likely sung by a shirty adolescent) he chose to kick the second syllable of “defend”, prior to melting into the final line; and it is in this cheeky moment that I see the suggestion of a very human engagement with God in our plea for help. Gibbons provides a “moment” (call it flash of inspiration, “jazzy”, a flourish, humor, or fun), that for me illustrates a conversation with someone able to take a joke. For me as a musician, these few notes help me understand the humanity of our two-way street with God, our relationship as defense cooperation, not to experience humanity as a passive recipient of a fearsome God’s help, or a one-sided rejection. (I hope you take a moment today to find a good recording on YouTube!).*

I hope that each of you, despite world events, are feeling the hope of a true spring. I hope you are strengthened on your journey though a thoughtful, prayerful Lent by the music the Choir sings, and I hope that you also feel a sense that

Easter this year might, just might, be one that feels really pretty good.

**Geoffrey Silver**  
**Director of Music Ministries**





## Budget Overview

Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement - Jan. 31, 2022	January Actual	January Budget	Jan. Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
2022 Pledge Payments	144,137	129,387	14,751	422,830
2022 Additional Pledges	350	2,264	(1,914)	27,170
2022 Over Pledge	835	1,182	(347)	5,000
2022 Non-Pledge	7,371	8,667	(1,296)	27,000
2021 Pledges	0	0	0	0
Loose Plate Offering	405	0	405	0
Special Offerings	0	200	(200)	2,400
Event & Activity Income	0	4	(4)	2,050
Facilities Use	580	383	197	4,600
Other Income	(1,574)	417	(1,990)	5,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>152,104</b>	<b>142,503</b>	<b>9,601</b>	<b>496,050</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Administration Expense	5,822	3,775	2,047	45,300
Diocesan Giving	2,917	2,917	0	35,000
Discretionary Account	0	0	0	0
Maintenance Expense	9,063	5,838	3,225	70,060
Personnel Expense	23,716	22,610	1,106	271,314
Program Expense	55	2,192	(2,137)	26,300
Property Expense	3,896	3,917	(21)	47,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>45,468</b>	<b>41,248</b>	<b>4,220</b>	<b>494,974</b>
Net Operating Income	106,637	101,255	5,381	1,076

### Cash Position 01/31/22

#### Cash on Hand

Checking Account	149,554
Uncleared Transactions	(7,842)
Brokerage Account	97,436
Savings Account	1,881

#### Total Cash

241,029

#### Less Designated Funds

Music Series	5,401
Sabbatical Reserve	7,850
Rectors Discretionary Fund	1,139
Deacon's Discretionary - Afghan Relief	2,502

#### Less Restricted Funds

Flowers	5,426
FOMAR	19,711
Columbarium	7,313
Other Restricted Funds	2,221
PRAY Youth Program	19,279
2023 Prepaid Pledge	16,000
Regional Dean Fund	897
2021 Diocese Grant	7,946

#### Operating Cash Available

145,343

### Treasurer's Report

Church of the Redeemer's operating results for January 2022 and cash position at the end of the month are set forth in the adjoining table. Pledge income is front-loaded each year, as pledges prepaid in the prior year are brought into income for the new year. The carry-in is expended over the course of the year, which progressively reduces Operating Cash Available. Pledge Payments budgeted for January included the prepaid carry-in (\$102,710) plus a monthly allocation of the remaining budgeted amount.

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

**Stephen L. Gibson**  
Treasurer

**Minutes of Vestry Meeting** (Unapproved)

**Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**

**February 16, 2022**

**Present:** Steve, Tom, Silvia, Susan, Phil, Toyin, Cricket, Becki, Geoffrey, Scott, Melinda

**Call to Order**

6:30 Meeting called to order by Rev. Cricket Park and Silvia opened in prayer.

**Consent Agenda**

Treasurer’s report, \$8500 audit costs because it included \$3k from previous year. The actual was \$5500 for 2020 audit.

Delete the date of submission for audit

Susan motioned, Silvia seconded to approve. All were in favor

**Treasurer’s report**

Pledge payments are front loaded significantly so there’s a big balance in the operating account now, but it will get worked through early.

We received more pledge income in January than was budgeted.

There were some unusual expenses resulted from bunching of last year’s invoices

We are on track so far.

Silvia motioned to accept the report. Susan seconded. All were in favor.

**Warden’s report by Silvia**

Bathrooms are in process. The workers will hopefully be back to work tomorrow assuming they are covid free. They are working on one bathroom at a time so the hope is to have it finished by Saturday.

The big expense is that the pump on the humidifier is corroded. Research is being done to understand how that happened so quickly. But it also needs to be fixed now.

Geoffrey moved to purchase the necessary parts now. Phil seconded and all were in favor.

**Rector’s Report**

She said we are still waiting for the sound system parts to come in that were ordered last year. Geoffrey said the parts have finally gotten to the distributor and we are waiting for them to be delivered.

In response to the vestry’s requests:

She supplied a pastoral care report.

We had multiple guests to the parish this past month. She’s trying to track down their emails.

Numbers of attendees in person and online are rising.

She supplied job descriptions for the staff. At this point the documents are just drafts of what is actually happening, but they will eventually be turned into more formal and consistently formatted documents.

The organ recital went well. There were roughly 50 people.

We need to approve new signatories for the checking account. Scott moved to have Silvia added as a signatories. Tim seconded and all were in favor.

Results from pledge calls are still in process with nothing to report yet.

The committees are beginning to fill with leaders. There is a need for altar guild leaders and members.

Coffee hour will hopefully begin in March. The diocese still wants to avoid inside eating.

Jo is collecting recipes for the cookbook.

Congressman Raskin will be here on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the youth group and parents to help the rising generation learn how to make their voices known as part of their advocacy work. Cricket will be marketing this for all the youth in this deanery. The vestry would like it available on zoom for adults.

**Retreat Topics**

Geoffrey recalled that the consultant said we should take one topic per meeting to work on.

Scott is committed to writing a strategic document, but wants to wait until Jo's back.

Phil discussed a meditation service proposal: it is free and no charge to execute. A great option for those who don't already attend or who don't want to commit to a church yet. It would be like Taizé but more subdued and with more silence. He would handle it all with maybe a volunteer or two for a monthly or bi-monthly service. We'd like to start a service or two during Lent before Holy Week. Melinda is planning to make the labyrinth available. She's also considering taking a labyrinth facilitator class. Everyone was favorable. March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> are the tentative dates.

Silvia discussed a coffee house idea, but it has to be on hold until covid restrictions lift more. She is going to begin looking for card tables to facilitate this as soon as possible. Jo and Silvia will discuss further on Jo's return.

Scott is also working with Geoffrey on club evenings/open house with drinks and snacks for hospitality ministry.

The Bishop has asked for staff to take a Sabbath week off, not including regular time off, this spring. Cricket is taking time on starting March 14<sup>th</sup> but there was also agreement to have her take the additional week off when she needs it.

**Strawberry Festival:**

The date needs to be moved to May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The auction was recommended to be limited and then the money given to a charity because the historical roots made it a charity event. The vestry recognized the church's financial needs and argued that the money should remain in house to offset our financial shortfalls. An raffle for a big ticket item was recommended.

The vestry will consider a Fall harvest festival.

**Refinancing the Mortgage**

It's a possible way to make up the deficit in the budget. Rates will go up soon. Tim knows a local broker who he can connect us with (Apex). Our current rate is 5.95%. Caution was advised because we need to discuss with the Finance Committee. Steve estimates we might save roughly \$2,200 per year if we do this. Since we're in the last 5 years of the mortgage it isn't as big a savings. We will need to update the recorded title, which is one of the reasons this hasn't been pursued. There would probably be an expense to that and also settlement costs. The Finance Committee would need to discuss the options and their goals.

Respectfully Submitted, **Becki Casey**



**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.



**Birthdays**

David Riggs

Peter Clamp

River Amouri

Elizabeth Carr

Shannon Yehl

Toni Strother

Jefferson Arrington

Justin Cinkala

Athena Hoogerheide

Sally Pugsley

David Winer

Toyin Rose

Nathan Price

Olivia Tomasson

Jakob Tomasson

Scott Williams

*Redeemer's Organ Under God's Light*



## **Part-Time Parish Administrator St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Bethesda**

Position Summary: The Parish Administrator oversees the Parish Office and provides administrative support to the Clergy, lay Staff, Wardens, and Vestry Members. This is a part-time (20 hours/week), non-exempt position, reporting directly to the Rector. While we would prefer for the Parish Administrator to be in the office four hours a day/five days a week, there is some room for flexibility. Office coverage on the Rector's day off (usually Friday) is required.

### Primary Areas of Responsibility:

- Courteous reception of callers and visitors
- Facilities management
- Financial management assistance
- Database management and record keeping
- Communications and social media
- Special projects (as assigned)

### Desired Qualifications:

- Demonstrable maturity and professional demeanor
- Integrity, adaptability, and flexibility
- Strong communication, mathematical, and organizational skills
- Close attention to detail
- Ability to think strategically and tactically

### Other Requirements:

- BA/BS degree
- Professional experience in non-profit/religious sector; familiarity with the Episcopal Church strongly preferred
- Willingness to complete diocesan Safe Church training

We will receive applications until the position is filled. To apply, please email a letter of interest, résumé, and list of three references to:

The Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, *Rector*  
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church  
5450 Massachusetts Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
[rector@stdunstansbethesda.org](mailto:rector@stdunstansbethesda.org)



Come join us at St. Dunstan's to hear vocalist **Landon Paddock** and pianist **Joseph Arkfeld** collaborate on the latest installment of St. Dunstan's jazz concert series. The dynamic pair will be putting on a swinging set of jazz standards and show tunes.

COVID precautions will be observed.

Tickets may be purchased in advance through the **St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church (Bethesda, MD) Facebook page**.

Visit [www.landonpaddock.com](http://www.landonpaddock.com) for a sample of what's in store!

MARCH 2022





*Redeemer  
Bethesda*

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



For COVID-safety reasons, the Parish Office is open by appointment. Please contact individual staff members for appointments.

As Sunday is a work day for staff, please avoid contacting staff members by phone on Mondays unless it's an emergency.

**PARISH CLERGY & STAFF**

The Rev'd Cricket Park, Rector  
rector@redeemberbethesda.org

The Rev'd Dr. David Schlafer, Assisting Priest  
drdavidjschlafer@gmail.com

The Rev'd Adrienne Clamp, MD, Deacon  
deacon@redeemberbethesda.org

Becki Casey, Seminarian  
rcasey@vts.edu

Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries  
music@redeemberbethesda.org

Margaret Church, Bookkeeper  
accounting@redeemberbethesda.org

Parish Office Mailbox  
office@redeemberbethesda.org

**VESTRY & OFFICERS**

Jo Barclay-Beard, Senior Warden  
301-789-4493 | jobbeard@yahoo.com

Silvia Maza, Junior Warden  
301-949-2016 | silviamaz357@gmail.com

Steve Gibson, Treasurer  
301-229-1168 | gibliu@verizon.net

Susan Grigsby  
301-263-1264 | susangrigsby24@gmail.com

Melinda Nelson  
301-391-6117 | melinda.nelson@nih.gov

Toyin Rose  
202-439-3449 | toyinrose@aol.com

Gian-Philip Toro  
443-362-2237 | gianphilip@gmail.com

Scott Williams  
202-528-2446 | scott.williams@forefrontstrategies.com

Tim Yehl  
301-229-4341 | tim@timyehl.com



**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 - one 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 of a Manna Food Pantry, literacy through tutoring at a Silver Spring elementary school, 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!**

**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
6201 Dunrobbin Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816  
301-229-3770  
www.redeemberbethesda.org**