

*Redeemer  
Bethesda*

# THE REDEEMER SPIRIT

JULY 2021

A monthly publication of The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer,  
Bethesda, Maryland

## HAPPY INTER-DEPENDENCE DAY

Happy Fourth of July! This day, believe it or not, is a feast day in the Episcopal Church. It's right there in the front of the Prayer Book with saints and martyrs: "Independence Day." Now, does it strike anyone as odd that this particular day is commemorated by the Episcopal Church? It should, you know! It was ENGLAND from which the colonists were declaring their independence. It wasn't just the crown that upset our friends from the coast of Massachusetts to Charleston, South Carolina. It was the CHURCH that was undeniably attached to that crown. Yes, my friends. We "Anglicans" were on the losing side of these 'troubles' across the pond. The fact that there is still an Episcopal Church bears testimony to many incredibly wise people who, with the help of Divine Providence, managed to bring unity out of extraordinary diversity in the late 1700s.

The Episcopal Church is a vital part of the history of the Fourth of July. If you didn't know, several Anglicans signed the Declaration of Independence. Nine of them are buried in the churchyard of Christ Church in Philadelphia, the nation's oldest continuing Episcopal Church. They include Benjamin Franklin and James Wilson. I'm sure you've heard of Mr. Franklin, but do you know about James Wilson? It was his vote for independency that swung the Pennsylvania delegation to the "Yea" side. Had he voted "Nay" - we may still be praying for Her Majesty the Queen instead of thanking the founders of this nation for a new

freedom. In light of this vote and the consequential act of the Continental Congress to declare independency, the inspired rector of Christ Church, Jacob Duche, proposed to the vestry that the church no longer pray for the royal family or the Bishop of London, but for these 'United States'. The vestry

concurred. Duche crossed out the name of the King in his prayer book and replaced it with the vestry's approved prayer. That act of treason led to Duche's arrest by the British. Duche's assistant, a young William White, obviously took all of this to heart as he became the church's first substantial Presiding Bishop and asked that the collect for this day be said in this church, "On the fourth of July, for ever."

Further north, Paul Revere wouldn't have known the British were coming by sea if it hadn't been for the two lanterns hung in Anglican Old North Church by sexton Robert Newman. Of course, there's also Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, which traces its roots to the Jamestown colony of Virginia and Trinity Wall



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## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Redeemer family:

I know I speak for everyone at Redeemer when I say a hearty “welcome back” to our Rector Cricket Park from her leave of absence. She will first be presiding at the services of July 4 and 11 so there will be a chance for those attending to say that in person. Otherwise let her know in other ways that her return is a cause for applause!

She will be delighted to see that since her departure there has been much progress on returning Redeemer to its pre-flood condition. The elevator is fully operational, the kitchen well on the way to completion, the Parish Hall gleaming as what is becoming our summer worship space, and repairs completed in the rectory. And the cicadas have gone!

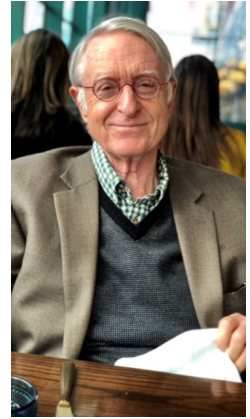
Let me thank the wonderful team at Redeemer for their work this past month. Led by Junior Warden Jo Barclay-Beard along with Bob Yates, many hands have played a part in the reconstruction effort. The Reverends Drs. David Schlafer and Adrienne Clamp have presided and preached at well attended services, Geoffrey Silver gathered back many choir members and challenged them with new pieces, the Vestry has been supportive and active in its governance role.

We also need to thank the Diocese of Washington and its wonderful Bishop Mariann Budde, and her staff for their ongoing support. The Bishop’s visit June 13 was a highlight – her sermon, her time with the Vestry and, her blessing of the elevator!

If you haven’t been back to Redeemer in a while, come back this summer. Say hello to Cricket, enjoy worshipping with old and new friends in a cool and handsome space. Coffee has even come back to the coffee hour! And before you know it Fall will be here, and God willing, we will be back in the sanctuary.

In faith,

**Geoffrey Platt** Senior Warden



### Channel

We are all capable of acts of kindness, humility, justice. We can heal with just a word – a word of encouragement, a word of regret and reconciliation, a word of understanding – or even an act of silent compassion, abiding with someone in their pain. We can show the mercy and humility of Jesus by wearing a mask to protect others, or taking a knee in non-violent protest. We can channel the humble glance of our Savior towards another who even though they look different, is a fellow child of God.

-Br. Jim Woodrum



**American  
Red Cross**

### Redeemer/ St Dunstan’s Blood Drive

**Wednesday, August 25  
1:00pm to 6:00pm**

**To set a time, contact Bob Yates**

## FROM THE HEARTH

“Why is the floor wet?”

I said it out loud and my son came over to look. Then, he opened the cabinet door under the sink and more water poured out.

“This is why,” Kevin said as he pointed out the separation between the drain in the sink and the pipe that was supposed to siphon away the dishwasher. He completed a temporary fix and cleaned up the floor while I entertained Miss Olivia the Grand. They left and I proceeded to contact the owner of the VRBO house where I was making my home last month.

Water. What is it with me and water? Separated pipes, floods, leaky drains, they vex me! Why does something so necessary for life have to be so darn destructive?

Where was God in the pipes and drains? Where has God been all these months? Where was God in early May when my ability to cope faltered and my strength failed? All my theological reasoning went out the door like the water from the church basement made its way through parish hall doors and out to the church lawn. Where was the Spirit when I felt abandoned and punished and believed that I was an utter failure? Was God in my tears?

Four weeks later.

God is in the kindness of all of you. God is in the care shown by Bishop Budde and the diocesan staff. God is in the patience of my husband and in the soft warmth of my shelties. God peers at me from the eyes of my granddaughter and as I watch my son be a parent. God is in my resting and sleep, albeit with some vivid dreams that only a therapist will be able to help me figure out.

God is in me too. Through water and the Spirit. I thought about my baptism when I showered, letting the warm water wash me clean in body and soul. Yes, God was in my tears. Today, I remember my ordination to the priesthood. I remember the people there saying that they would support me in my ministry. Over this last month, they have by bringing me food, company, and conversation.

No one is at fault for the losses that brought me low. I was taking care of myself – I continued to exercise, not drink excessively, take naps. The circumstances simply were more than one person could bear. No one goes through what we’ve been through over the last 18 months and comes out perfectly fine. No one. I look forward to returning Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, for so many reasons. I want to see you, I want to give you a hug or a fist bump or a solemn ‘namaste’ bow. Most of all, I want to worship God with you again. I’ve missed you. I missed God for awhile too. I look forward to healing together.

Love,

**Cricket+**

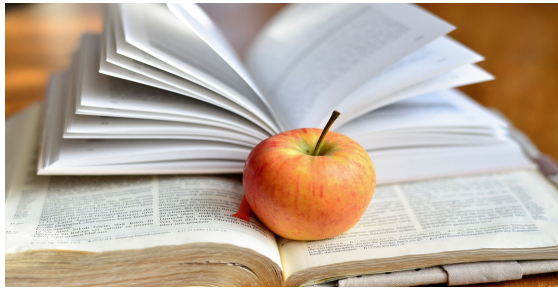


## CHRISTIAN FORMATION/CELEBRATION

### *Lunch with Jesus*

#### Exploration of Sunday Lectionary Readings

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. Bring your study Bible and join us this week. The Zoom link is on the Redeemer home page: [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org).



### Remember Telephones?

Believe it or not, telephones of all ages continue to be a great way to communicate with family and friends. If you're tired of Zooming, or don't have the desire to use new-fangled technology, it's okay. We can pray by phone!

The rectors of St. Dunstan and Redeemer host a prayer conference call Monday through Friday at 10am.

To participate, please follow these instructions:

1. Dial this number: (508) 924-1769
2. That's it!

Access code for callers outside of United States only: 62015450



Marcia Sartwell

Tony Penn

Caroline Tucker

Clare Paulsen

Kialeh Lew-McAntony

Mark Pennybacker

Sam Penn

Cynthia Fischer

Carolyn Killea Rutledge

Tami McMinn

Neda Shirzad

Clark Downs

Michael Mershon

### July Birthdays



Happy Anniversary to:  
Ellen Jimerson & Charles Oliver

## FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

We're moving forward!

Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul.

Luther Burbank

The gardens are looking lovely thanks to all of the people that have been coming out to enjoy the company of others and to get their hands dirty. If you would like to help, contact Merry Bruns who has graciously taken over the leadership of the Gardeners while I am busy working with Bob on the continued flood renovations.

We have a functioning elevator – we passed inspection – thank you Bishop Budde for your blessing. This means that the things upstairs can come downstairs, and furniture and things downstairs can be taken upstairs. Yes, you can help with that – just ask Bob and/or Geoffrey what they would like help with.

The repairs in the rectory bathrooms have been completed which I am sure is much appreciated by Cricket and Steve. We now have two of the three large projects completed.

The last big project to complete is the kitchen. Many of you have been coming to the Sunday services and have seen the new layout and new cabinetry. The flooring has been laid in the kitchen and our countertops have been fabricated; later this week I will call and schedule a time for their installation. Once that has been finished, there will be a call for volunteers to help sort, clean and put away. Close your eyes and try to imagine all those boxes piled up in the back of the parish hall gone! If you are willing to sit down at tables and sort through boxes let me know at either [jobbeard@yahoo.com](mailto:jobbeard@yahoo.com) or 301-789-4493.

So, when you have satisfied your soul walking through the gardens or sitting on the benches outside, perhaps even become dirtier from a bit of weeding, come inside happier and be more helpful.

God is good – all the time! Peace - Jo

**Jo Barclay-Beard**  
Junior Warden



### REDEEMER MEN'S THIRD FRIDAY LUNCHEON GROUP

The Redeemer Men's Third Friday Luncheon Group has returned to in-person gathering at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo. The group discusses whatever is on their collective minds and catches up on how they are all doing. Being older and retired, sometimes the discussion centers on health, other times on household management, sometimes investment philosophies, national politics, the economy, and, of course, life in the parish. A reminder email is sent to all interested persons early in the week we are meeting.

If you would like to know more about the group, or be put on the email list, contact Bob Dresser ([Robert.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.dresser@gmail.com)) or Bill McBain ([bill@macbain.us](mailto:bill@macbain.us)).

## PARISH LIFE

### Redeemer Book Group

The next book we are reading is "*For Whom the Bell Tolls*" by Ernest Hemingway, based on his stay in Spain from 1937 to cover the civil war. The story tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat and the tragic death of an ideal. A young American is attached to an antifascist guerilla in the mountains of Spain, fighting Franco's army. This is one of the best war novels ever written.

Discussion of the book will take place IN PERSON at 3:00 pm on August 8 at the home of Huda & Jochen Kraske, 4550 North Park Avenue, Apt. 410, Chevy Chase, Md. 20815 (phone: 301 656 2087). All are welcome.

More information will follow! For more information, please contact Bob Dresser [robert.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:robert.dresser@gmail.com) or Huda Kraske [hqkraske@aol.com](mailto:hqkraske@aol.com).

### *Small but Mighty*

#### **Affinity Groups are Essential to Resurrection Life**

When Jesus appeared to the apostles after his resurrection, he didn't go to them in a setting that held thousands of people. On the contrary, Jesus spent his time with his beloved friends in small groups. His interactions were usually with one or two of them. At best there were probably fewer than 20 at his feet listening to his teachings.

Small groups are essential for new growth. They help us get to know each other at a deeper level. They help us grow trust in one another. Our faith shared with our friends prepares us to share it with people who are seeking a faith community.

We've done affinity/small groups in the past with great success. Foyer groups - dinner companions - introduce us to each other over food. These groups enable newcomers to get to know veteran members of the community. Our Knitters have enjoyed their weekly time together across state lines, thanks to Zoom. The various sections of the choir have kept themselves together throughout the pandemic, helping each other in challenges and rejoicing together in good times. Indeed, the entire choir could be considered an affinity group as their love of music roots them in community.

Affinity groups don't need to be "religious" as much as they need to help connect people who seek Christian fellowship. In other words, the book group can discuss their chosen selections from a secular standpoint. They're coming together over the love of books builds trust so that a sacred point-of-view might be possible. The rector loves to play Scrabble and other board and card games. Anyone else up for a game night foyer group? Do you play golf? How about a church member four-some or weekly meet-up? How about a regular hiking group that visits the canal towpath? Or, maybe an art lovers group. A Mom's Morning Out? The possibilities are infinite.

What group would you organize to help us renew our relationships with each other? Please let Deacon Adrienne know: [deacon@redeemberbethesda.org](mailto:deacon@redeemberbethesda.org).

## HAPPY INTER-DEPENDENCE DAY

*(Continued from page 1)*

Street, which was the 'mothership' of Anglicanism in the northern United States from the time of Queen Anne. A little-known fact is that the first Anglican service in America was not on the east coast, but near what is now San Francisco Bay. After landing there, Sir Francis Drake gathered with his shipmates and was led in prayer by Anglican clergyman Francis Fletcher, the ship's chaplain. If you ever have a chance to visit these places, do it. It makes US history come alive and has always given me a sense of pride in the Episcopal Church.

Independence is touted and upheld as the preferred way of governing oneself whether as sovereign nation or as an individual. Independence, by virtue of its definition, has a tricky way of convincing us that we—nation or person—can function just on our own. As we reflect upon this day and what it means for us as Americans, be aware of the glaring contrast that it means for us as a Christian community.

God, you see, wants us to see how completely dependent we really are. Our next thought, our next word, the very fabric of our being cannot be without God. It was God who enabled our first breaths and God who will ease us from our final one. We are dependent upon God for our being and we are dependent upon community for life.

Independence is not the important concept here. It is more important to recognize our inter-dependence. We are woven together as God's people not only with other Episcopalians but with Anglicans across the world. Our Anglican Communion is woven again with other Christians and again with Jews and Muslims, and once again with Buddhists and Hindus. Despite our differing ideologies and worship practice, there is a thread that binds us together – all major religions agree (fanatics notwithstanding) that the most important rule for life is that we do not do to anyone else what we would not have done to ourselves.

The Golden Rule is the thread of our interdependence. We should be important to one another. We should respect one another. Yes, we have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but we do not

have it at the expense of another human being. Gayle Harris, suffragen bishop of Massachusetts, said: "... history has given to this nation a unique opportunity to explore and interpret what it is to be free. . . Liberty is not just the ability to live in the pursuit of happiness; it carries the mandate to strive for the same with and for others. . . . Freedom demands the best for us and the best from us."

Our true freedom comes from God, not a declaration of independence or a constitution. True freedom comes from trusting in God to give us food for the journey and not being distracted by possessions that deflect our energy and keep the Spirit from doing God's work in us. True freedom comes from knowing that it is not our job to save the world, God's already done that. Our job is to tell the story of God's love in and invite others into this marvelous web of inter-dependence in which we all can be God's children and rejoice that our names are written in heaven.

One of the challenges before us, as Americans and Anglicans, is to find the balance between our "inalienable right" to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and our responsibility to love our neighbors in the Church and in the world as devotedly as we love ourselves. In that balance, God willing, we may find that we truly do God's work on earth and find perfect freedom for others and ourselves.

So, a happy Inter-dependence Day to all of you. Today, as you gather with your family, watch baseball games, eat hot dogs, and gaze at fireworks -

Remember to give thanks for our freedom.

Remember that many sacrifices, military, and non-military, have been and are currently being made to enable us to have these freedoms.

Remember that if we do not participate in our political process, those freedoms can and will be taken from us.

But, above all, remember that it is God, and God alone, who makes true freedom possible.

Amen.

**Cricket+**

## MUSIC AT REDEEMER

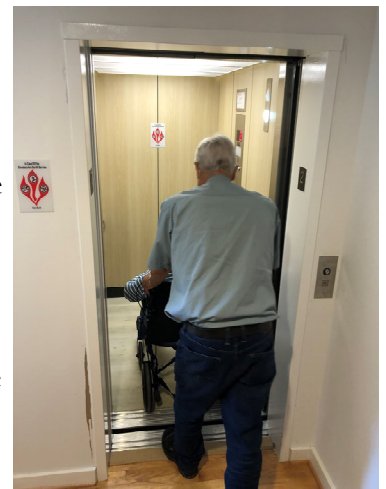


The sound of voices rebounding off walls and ceilings... Don't get me wrong, singing outside this past spring and previous fall has been wonderful, but it is nothing compared to hearing a building *sing back with you*. Something special happened in June as we were welcomed by the Narthex, standing where the old church's altar once was. The building helped us. Polyphony is not an easy thing to master, particularly without piano rehearsals on the Labyrinth, or each divisi having to survive counting and musical leaps without a section leader. But we took demanding repertoire as a starting point, and with the building's help, did really well.

I had hoped to have *Ascendit Deus* by Peter Philips (1560/1-1628) ready for the Bishop's commissioning and blessing, as a very Redeemer-like pun, but it was a heavy lift and was not going to be ready in time. Yet many had invested time learning it, so we decided to sing it on our last Sunday of the Choir season, June 27. Then something extraordinary happened. Not only did the elevator coincidentally pass its second inspection a day or so before, but, unbeknownst to me, in order to be audible and ADA compliant, the elevator sings upon its arrival (think *Law and Order's* "Bong! Bong!" ident, only higher



in pitch and, well, more cheerful and less foreboding.) It just so happens that the elevator "Bing! Bing!"s are the same note as the high point of the motivic gesture of *Ascendit Deus* (the top note of the phrase on the word "God" is the same note the elevator sings). So, the choir and elevator were in harmony on its first Sunday, and the family of one of its members were





## MUSIC AT REDEEMER



the first to use it. I had had no idea the elevator was going to sing, and nor did I know that it would be in the key of the piece that I had chosen for its dedication, so that felt like a blessing. It was wonderful being so in tune with our environs, and in future, we'll know we can always pitch an F for the introit by pressing the call button! Back in the day, much spiritual significance was placed on the discovery of random copper pennies by the Fox News producer who ran EfM at one of the Church's I once worked for...which never really chimed with me...whereas the elevator singing in our key on its first day of use gives me much more confidence of the Spirit at work in our Church.

There are two cautious approaches we are planning in terms of rebuilding music for children this fall. Our Ensemble-in-Residence KASSIA MUSIC is launching a chamber music program that will teach children wanting to learn an instrument, with the eventual goal of occasionally performing on Sundays. More news on this and our Music at Redeemer Season next month. And fall will be the beginning of a sustained period of quiet building for youth Choir. We have a growing number of under 8s now at Church, and I would like to explore musical activities for them. Our approach will be cautious, and shaped by how schools consider the Delta variant, and the guidance they will put out for choruses for the semester. But there will be safe activities that can help nurture a lifelong love of music. Parents, please get in touch with me!

**Geoffrey Silver**  
 Director of Music Ministries



## From Our Deacon

### I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Something to Eat

When I was a young intern, we got meal tickets when we were on call and in the hospital. They were a Godsend as I can remember many times when my meagre salary did not make it to the end of the month. I sometimes would bake a chicken when they were on sale and then boil the dickens out of the carcass to make broth, freeze it then and eat it with noodles for a few days at the end of the month. I was a lot skinnier in those days. But I remember working hard and some days being hungrier than I would have liked. And it was really embarrassing, so I never asked anyone for help. I had what looked like a good job, so I should be able to afford what I needed. But there was student loan debt, rent, utilities, and of course payroll deductions and sometimes \$650 a month just did not stretch far enough.



Now I live in Bethesda, in one of the wealthiest counties in America. And there is still a staggering amount of hunger and poverty around us. It is not all in Anacostia. There is a great deal of need right here, among our neighbors, maybe even acquaintances. The COVID crisis has plunged many people who were already on the edge over into a scary abyss.

I see these folks at Nourishing Bethesda, and talk to them on the phone with Bethesda Help. Many are hesitant to give their name. Many are older and living on a fixed income that does not keep pace with the rising costs we are all experiencing. Many survive on minimally nutritious food that they can get at a discount store (think Ramen noodles 10/\$1.00).

It is humiliating to be hungry and unable to help oneself, especially in the shadow of the Capitol and the privilege that is all around you. It is true that none of us has the ability to wave a wand and make it go away, but we can do small acts of kindness with the love that Jesus encourages us to have for the poor, the needy and the forgotten.

I am placing a basket in front of the altar weekly and I am committing to 2 items of nonperishable food in the basket every week that will be an offering there for those of our neighbors in need we may never see. I ask you to consider doing the same. I and others will make sure these make it to a food bank for distribution. It is a small thing but it really will make a difference to someone who does not have the means and luxury of giving and has to be on the receiving end of the equation.

Let us keep before us that both sides of the equation, the giving and the receiving, are equally precious in God's eyes. Let us commit as a community to being ever aware of the needs of the world and make our contribution, however small it seems, to assuring that there is enough for everyone.

Thank you for considering doing this on a weekly basis as we offer gifts of bread and wine and thank God for His blessing on our lives and community.

**Adrienne Clamp+**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Redeemer Profit and Loss Statement - May 31, 2021	Jan - May Actual	Jan - May Budget	Jan - May Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
2021 Pledge Payments	256,443	258,555	(2,112)	476,500
2021 Over Pledge	2,852	6,250	(3,398)	15,000
2021 Non-Pledge	13,993	10,417	3,576	25,000
2020 Pledges	5,302	417	4,885	1,000
Loose Plate Offering	0	0	0	0
Special Offerings	10	417	(407)	1,000
Event & Activity Income	0	0	0	0
Facilities Use	0	2,083	(2,083)	5,000
Other Income	3,683	2,500	1,183	6,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>282,283</b>	<b>280,638</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>529,500</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Administration Expense	21,051	22,000	(949)	52,800
Diocesan Giving	16,667	16,667	0	40,000
Discretionary Account	0	208	(208)	500
Maintenance Expense	30,190	33,542	(3,352)	80,500
Personnel Expense	119,452	125,295	(5,843)	300,707
Program Expense	5,027	9,438	(4,410)	22,650
Property Expense	19,480	19,583	(103)	47,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>211,867</b>	<b>226,732</b>	<b>(14,866)</b>	<b>544,157</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>70,416</b>	<b>53,906</b>	<b>16,510</b>	<b>(14,657)</b>

### Treasurer's report for July Redeemer Spirit

Church of the Redeemer's operating results through May 2021 are set forth in the adjoining profit and loss statement. Donation income was below budget in May, but total income year-to-date is close to budget. Year-to-date operating income remains ahead of budget, reflecting below-budget expenses.

Flood recovery expenditures that are covered by insurance and building improvement projects that are undertaken in connection with flood recovery, such as kitchen upgrade and new elevator, are not reflected in the attached profit and loss statement, but are tracked separately. Flood recovery costs are largely covered by insurance, while building upgrade projects have been funded by transfers from the building reserve and by special donations received for that purpose.

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

**Stephen L. Gibson, Treasurer**

## PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

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## The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816  
Phone: 301-229-3770  
Website: [www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org)

*The Parish Office is open by appointment. Please contact individual staff members for appointments.*



**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, Maryland:** a vibrant, growing parish community of “inquiring and

discerning hearts”, where all – the doubter, the seeker, and the believer – are welcome to join us in living and wrestling with the often difficult questions of faith. Here we value an Anglican spirituality – one that is open to the mystery of the Holy and which celebrates the dignity of human nature and the beauty of all creation. **Come. Be loved. Belong. Believe.**



## EMAIL

### Emails at Redeemer.

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