

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 28TH, 2025 | 9:30AM
HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING FOUR

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

The assembly stands as able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly stands as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

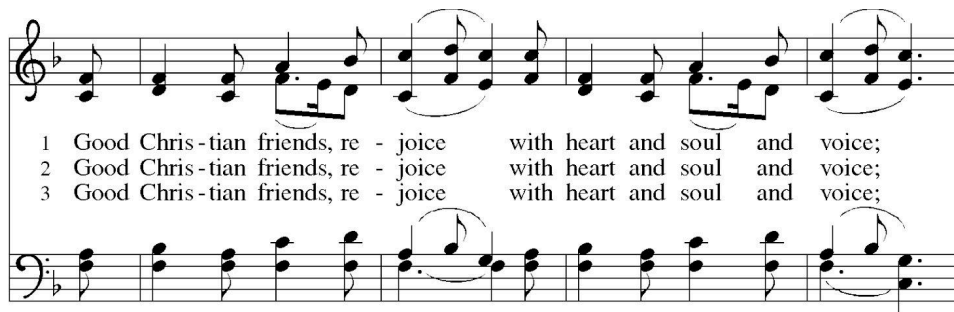
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen

The assembly stands as able. The service continues with a gathering song

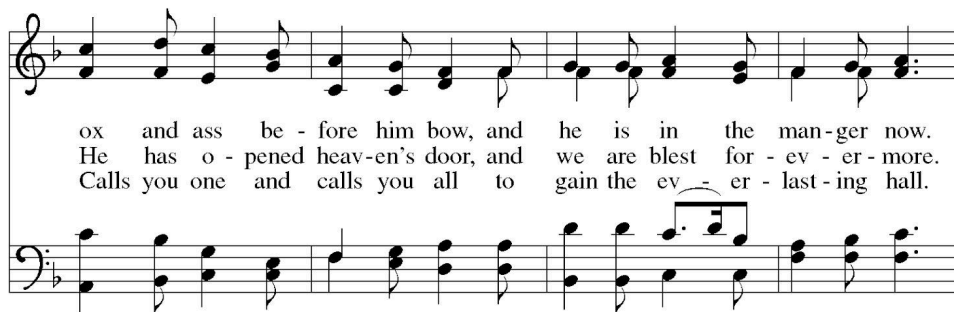
Gathering Song: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW 288)



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assistant minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

The reading may be announced: A reading from **Hebrews**.

10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12 saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The reading may be concluded: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

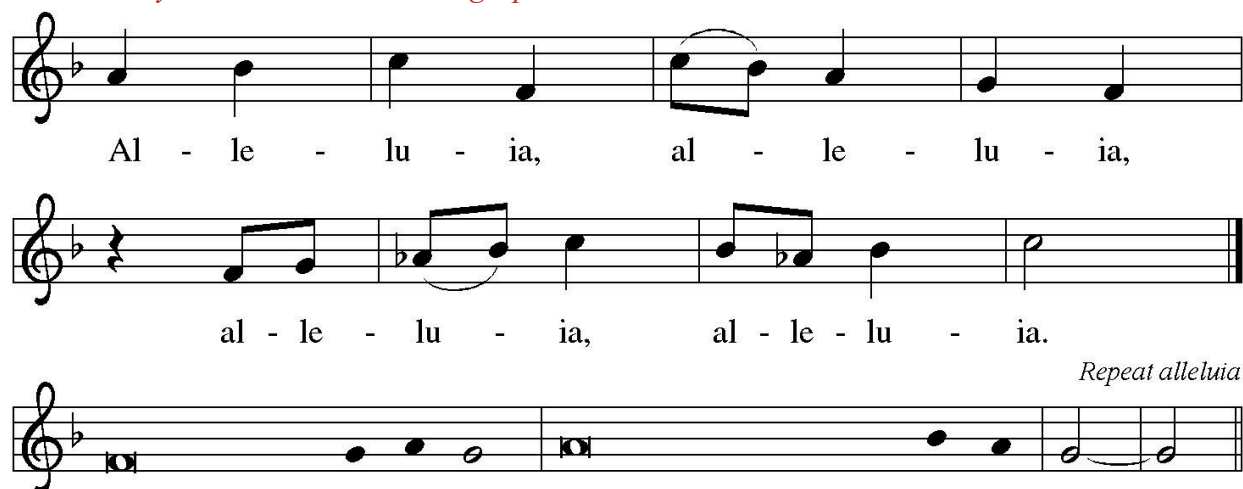
Psalm: 148

The psalm for the day is spoken in unison.

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.**
- 2 Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- 3 Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.**
- 4 Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- 5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,**
- 6 who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**
- 7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;**
- 8 fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- 9 mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;**
- 10 wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- 11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;**
- 12 young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. R**
- 13 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.**
- 14 The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R**

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

The presiding minister announces the gospel.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

13 Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 127)

The assembly stands as they are able. The assistant minister leads the Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially for . . .*)
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (*especially*). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (ELW p. 130)

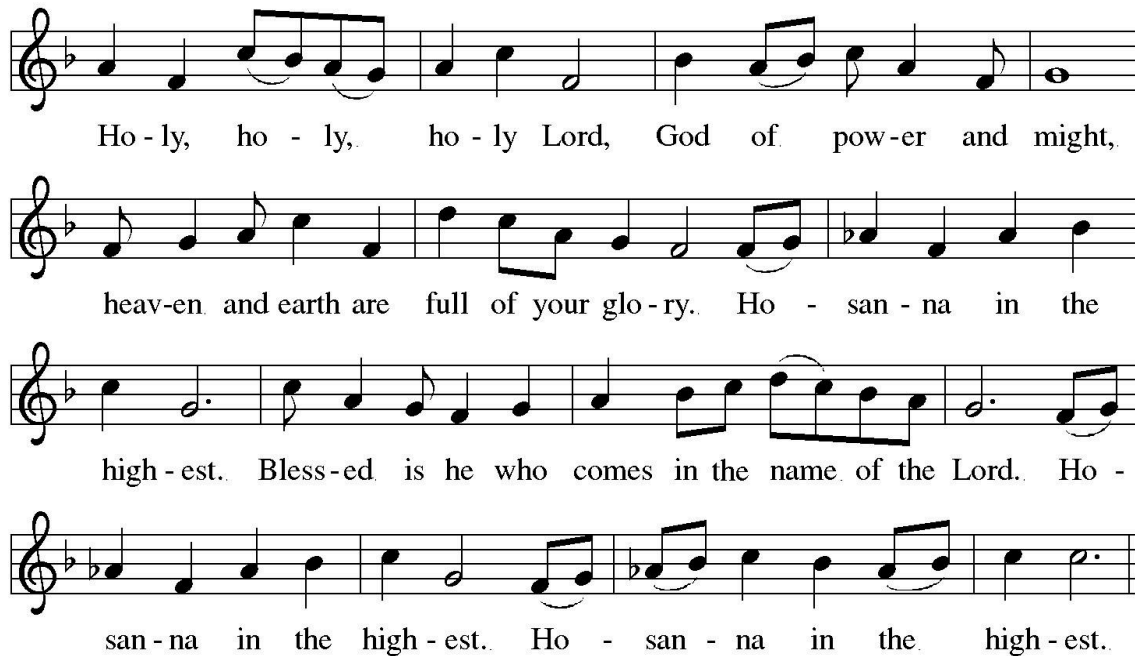
The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus “Holy, holy, holy...”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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

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

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW P. 134)

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

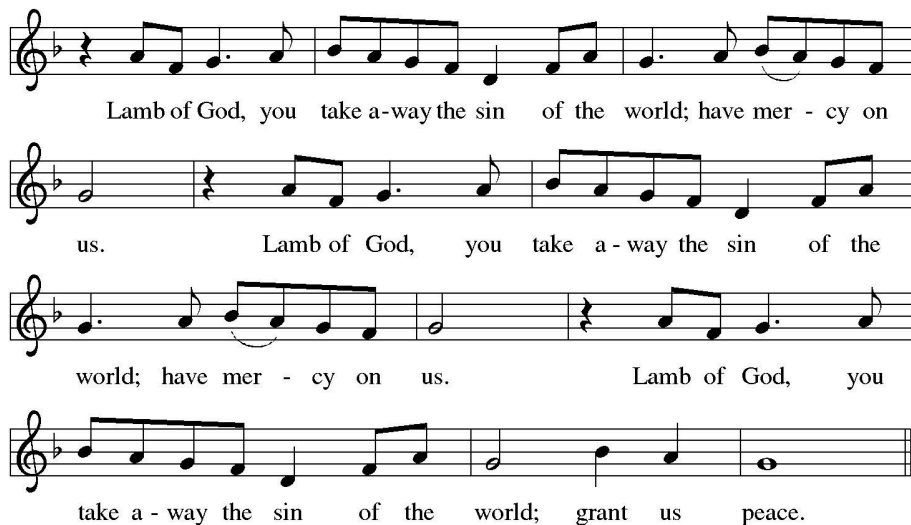
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s).

AGNUS DEI *"Lamb of God" may be sung.*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthens you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

**May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.**

**Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.**

Amen

The assembly is seated after the prayer concludes.

SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's Blessing.

May God who comes among us, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.



Sending Song: *Go Tell It On The Mountain* (ELW 290)

The assembly stands as they are able to proclaim the word of God in song.

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MISSION NOTES

We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!

Wintertime Book Study (Online!): "Sabbath as a Means of Resistance"

5 Sessions held on Redeemer's Zoom link from 5:30-7pm on Thursdays:
Jan. 22nd, Jan. 29th, Feb. 5th, Feb. 12th, and Feb. 19th.

Do you long for more time? More rest? A deeper sense of meaning and connection to the faith that God is planting in you? Please consider joining us for our online wintertime book study, "Sabbath as a Means of Resistance!" written by theologian Walter Brueggemann, considered one of the great Christian thinkers of our modern era. All sessions will be held on Redeemer's zoom link (the same link used for worship), and are listed below. Books can be ordered by calling Inquiring Minds in New Paltz at 845.255.8300 (support our local bookstore!) or online. Please contact Pastor Tobias with questions or suggestions at tobias.song@gmail.com or 845.594.8010

Chair Yoga with Bonnie Crisci - Cancellations

Dec 24th and 31st, there will be no classes, resuming Wednesday, Jan 7th, 130pm

Food Justice Efforts | Family of NP requests:

Pasta sauce Tuna Peanut Butter Jam or Jelly Oatmeal Canned fruit
Shelf stable milk Cereal Canned milk Pasta and/or Rice sides



ONGOING

Sunday School

**First & Third Sundays, 11-noon,
Throughout the School Year**

Fun-filled and engaging Sunday school with our Episcopal and Methodist ecumenical partners. Hosted here at Redeem in the SouthEast Classroom.

Worship Incubators

First Sunday of each month - 11-1230pm
Mission statement: Developing Christ-centered, multi-sensory worship opportunities that give praise and glory to God.

Free Fresh Food Giveaway

Volunteers are needed to help set up and/or stay a short time to help distribute food at our Free Fresh Food Giveaway every 2nd Sunday of the month. Contact Jackie Anderson 609 432 9622 or dogsinn136@gmail.com.

Good Trouble Coffeehouse & Open Mic Night

SCC hosted in partnership with Redeemer, New Paltz every Friday 7-9pm

Chair Yoga with Bonnie Crisci

*Chair Yoga at Redeemer New Paltz -
Wednesdays at 1:30*

Book Study on Redeemer's Zoom Link

Thursdays - 530-7pm:
Jan. 22nd, Jan. 29th,
Feb. 5th, Feb. 12th, & Feb. 19th

Council Meetings - All Welcome to Attend

Every 3rd Thursday, 7pm, on Zoom

Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Reverend Tobias V. Anderson, Pastor
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