



REDEEMER CHURCH

————— BANGALORE —————

Sunday, December 15, 2024

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Saviour; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Welcome to Redeemer Church! We are so glad you can be with us here today. We are thrilled to see God build this local church body for the furthering of His Kingdom in the neighbourhoods of North Bangalore and beyond. We know visiting a church can lead to a lot of questions and we'd love to help you find answers. Our website, redeemberbangalore.com, has details about our beliefs, vision and values. Check it out for more information about Redeemer Church, and chat with one of the elders if you have more questions.

About Our Worship Service

Our liturgy (i.e., worship service) follows the logic of the gospel and the historic pattern of God's covenant people. The main movements are as follows:

- Calling* - God takes the initiative, moves toward us with grace, and invites us to worship him.
- Cleansing* - God reminds us that we are forgiven in Christ and loved as his children.
- Communion* - God nurtures us through his Word and invites us to His table to partake of his grace.
- Commission* - God blesses us and sends us out into His world as His ambassadors.

We realise that the flow and content of the service may be unfamiliar, so we've included a few notes under each element that offer some explanation. Feel free to participate actively or to just listen and observe.

Please feel free to take this worship guide with you to use for personal worship and devotional time throughout the week.

Reflection

Take a moment to pause and prepare your hearts for the service.

“Christianity is not primarily about lifestyle change; it is about knowing God. To know and grow to enjoy him is what we are saved for... Nonetheless, getting to know God better does actually make for far more profound and practical change as well. Knowing the love of God is the very thing that makes us loving. Sensing the desirability of God alters our preferences and inclinations, the things that drive our behaviour: We begin to want God more than anything else.”

— Michael Reeves

“What people revere, they resemble, either for ruin or restoration.”

— G.K. Beale

“Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.”

— John Donne, *Batter My Heart*

Please silence your phone before our worship service begins. Thank you.

Song of Preparation

The music team helps the congregation prepare their hearts to meet and be met by God, their Creator and Redeemer.

O Come, All You Unfaithful

O come, all you unfaithful
Come, weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone
O come, barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying, come
See what your God has done

*Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you*

O come, bitter and broken
Come, with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love

O come, guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done

He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe

So come, though you have nothing
Come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done

Welcome & Announcements

THE LORD CALLS US

Call to Worship - from Psalm 147: 7-11

God invites and calls us to worship Him; we respond to His invitation.

Minister: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

People: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord together!

Songs of Adoration

We sing praises to God and proclaim through song the good news of who God is and what He has done in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign!

*Behold our God, seated on His throne
Come, let us adore Him!
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore Him!*

You will reign forever!
(Let Your glory fill the earth)

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One
Who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Prayer of Adoration

This is a prayer of praise and adoration for who God is. It focuses on the glory and honor of our great and mighty God, but also asks God to help us worship Him.

O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

THE LORD CLEANSSES US

Public Confession of Sin

Please be seated. We humbly confess our sin, expressing our unity even in our brokenness and collective need for God's grace.

Together: Gracious God, you have declared us Holy by virtue of our union with Christ. And yet, we have failed to live holy lives. Our selfish desires keep us from following you. Our grudges weigh us down until we cannot walk straight in your way. Our anger becomes a fire which scorches our friends and loved ones. Our fears blind us to the goodness in those we believe to be different. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Set us free from our missteps and failures. Forgive our sins and empower us by your Spirit to live in Your light and walk in Your ways. We pray this humbly in Christ's Name. Amen.

Private Confession of Sin

We take several moments of silence to meet with God individually, confess our sin, and seek His forgiveness and grace.

Assurance of Forgiveness - from Romans 8:28-29

The words of assurance are declarations of God's forgiveness and redemption, spoken with joy.

Minister: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. Rejoice! In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Together: Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith - from Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A. 35

We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.

Minister: What is sanctification?

Together: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in our whole person in the image of God, and by which we are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness.

Song of Assurance

The congregation responds with joy, gratitude, and renewed faith in God's promises.

His Mercy is More

What love could remember
No wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing
He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea
Without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many
His mercy is more

What riches of kindness
He lavished on us!
His blood was the payment
His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt
We could never afford
Our sins, they are many
His mercy is more

What patience would wait
As we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender
Is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest
The vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many
His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord!
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins, they are many
His mercy is more*

Pastoral Prayer

The pastoral prayer is a prayer offered by an elder during the service of worship for, and on behalf of, the congregation.

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US

The Reading of God's Word - 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

God speaks to us by His Word.

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Sermon - Becoming Like Christ

A sermon is not just teaching for living; it is mainly a time when God encounters His people through His Word.

1. The Image We Were Meant to Reflect
2. The Barrier We Face
3. The Freedom to Become Christlike

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

God invites His people to forsake their sins and feast with Him at His table.

Song of Communion

How Low was Our Redeemer Brought

How low was our Redeemer brought
The King who held the stars
Lay helpless in a maiden's arms
And pressed against her heart
While sheep and cattle raised their voice
The babe could speak no words
The ever flowing Spring of Joy
Had come to share our thirst

How low was our Redeemer brought
The Lord the worlds obeyed
Would stumble as He learned to walk
Upon the ground He'd made
The One the angels bowed before
Would kneel to wash our feet
And be at home among the poor
Though He owned everything

*Gloria, gloria in the highest
Gloria, gloria in the highest*

How low was our Redeemer brought
To raise us from our shame
And now the highest praise of all
Belongs to Jesus' name
The Healer wounded on a tree
To bear our grief and sin
The King gave up His crown so we
Could ever reign with Him

THE LORD COMMISSIONS US

Song of Thanksgiving & Offering

Please stand. We respond in thanks for God's redemptive work in Christ, and offer our gifts to Him in gratitude. This is primarily for members and regular attendees. If you are a guest today, please feel no obligation to give.

O Church, Arise

O church, arise, and put your armour on
Hear the call of Christ our captain
For now the weak
Can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold, whose battle cry is love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword
That makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valour
When faced with trials on ev'ry side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have
The prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come, see the cross
Where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart will see Him

So Spirit, come
Put strength in ev'ry stride
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

Arise, Shine, for your light has come
Arise, Shine, for your risen Son
Lift your eyes, we are his radiant bride
Arise, O church, Arise

Benediction - from Numbers 6:24-26

A benediction is a pronouncement of God's blessing. We don't bow our heads; instead, we lift them up and even hold out our palms to receive God's blessing as we are sent out to participate in His mission to North Bangalore and beyond.

Minister: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Together: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Announcements

Connect Card

We would love to connect with you and hear how best we can serve you. If you are visiting for the first time or haven't yet plugged in, pick up a connect card at the Welcome Table and place it in the offering plate later in the service or hand it to one of our Welcome Team volunteers.

Redeemer's Vision & Worship Night | 4 January

On January 4 at 4:04 PM, we'll gather for a Vision & Worship Night at Redeemer Church. Come for an evening of worship, vision, and community as we share the heart behind planting Redeemer Church and talk about the hopes for the next season ahead. Feel free to bring a friend! Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Launch Service | 12 January

We're so glad to have you with us today for Redeemer Church's first launch service. We will meet again for our next launch service on Sunday, 12 January at 4:04 p.m. Please join us, and bring a friend along. A reception with light refreshments to follow the service.

Online Giving:

Name: NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP Number: 00000034432824470 IFS Code: SBIN0017734
UPI ID: NEWCITYFELLOWSHIP@SBI

Christmas Services

at New City Fellowship

We invite you to celebrate Christmas with us at New City Fellowship, our parent church!

Join us for our special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at the Conference Hall of Nahar Heritage Hotel, St. Mark's Road. The service timings are as follows:

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, 24 December

5:30 PM

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, 25 December

11:00 AM

We'd love to have you with us as we worship and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Prayers During Communion

A prayer for those searching for truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

A prayer of belief:

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

A prayer for those struggling against sin:

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.