News from The Redeemer

Celebrating 175 Years!

Episcopal Church of

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Adult Forum Today



Improvements to Burns Hall



Installation of acoustic panels in Burns Hall are complete. These improvements will increase our ability to comfortably hold meetings and gatherings in this beautiful space. Please spread the word to your community organizations looking for a meeting space.

Recording of All Saints Choral Evensong

While the live broadcast of the November 15 Evensong had some sound problems, there is a good recording of it available now on the homepage of the website.

Sunday, November 22

The Last Sunday after Pentecost - Christ the King

8:00am	Spoken Holy Eucharist Rite I	Church
9:15am	Nursery Opens	Rm 206
9:30am	Holy Eucharist & Baptism Rite II	Church + Livestream
10:40am	Coffee Hour	Parish House
10:45am	Children's Formation	Parish House 2nd Floor Classrooms
10:45am	Adult Forum	Church
11:45am	Vestry Meeting	Pembroke Rm
4:00pm	RYG	Masterman Hall
8:00pm	Compline	via Zoom

WORSHIP NOTES

In this new feature of The News, the Rector will illumine and call to our attention significant features of our worship.

Hymns and Singing

After more than several decades as a priest, I can't remember a single time when someone mentioned, either positively or negatively, the *text* of a hymn sung during a service. This is in contrast to the innumerable times when people have commented, enthusiastically or in full-fledged complaint, about the *tunes* of the hymns. People love to sing tunes they know. Everyone can appreciate this. It tells us something important about the place of song - and of being able to participate in song - in our lives. Singing is next to breathing. And that's why having to sing unfamiliar and difficult melodies can so rankle us. Work replaces joy.

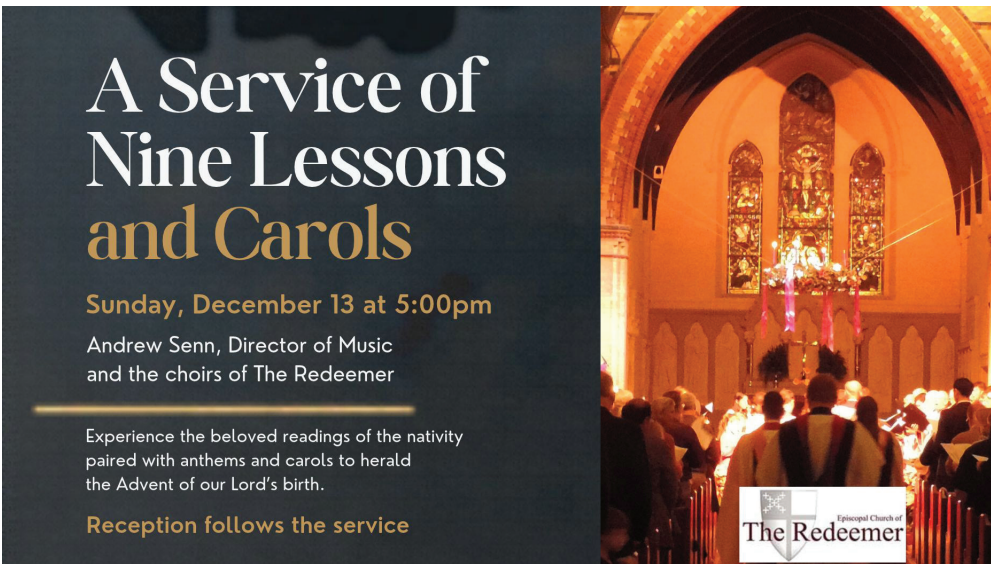
But hymns are more than music. They are a marriage of text and tune. And speaking is far more complicated than breathing and singing. Just think of how quickly speaking can fall to an irritating drone or confront us with highly objectionable ideas. This makes the writing of hymns difficult and a truly specialized art. It also makes the choosing of hymns for services the careful task of finding expressions, in both word and music, that fit the liturgy, the season, the moment, and the congregation. There are many hymns in our hymnbook that have great music and woefully out-of-date texts. Just as there are magnificent texts that have been set to un-singable music.

Every week as the staff collaborates on the elements of the coming services, we discuss the hymns with an eye to both tune and text. We always try to include several hymns that are well-known. And sometimes a text deserves asking the congregation to make their way through an unfamiliar tune. And sometimes we try to find a different tune, known and loved, that can be matched with a text that has been ignored because its hymnbook setting is… well, unfortunate.

Last Sunday we did the last of these, singing a brilliant text that has never been sung here before because of the tune. Changing the tune to a Christmas melody gave this text life. Here is the text, which warrants comment.

> Glorious the day when Christ was born to wear the crown that Caesars scorn
> whose life and death that love reveal which mortals need and need to feel.
>
> Glorious the day when Christ fulfills what self rejects yet feebly wills;
> when that strong light puts out the sun and all is ended, all begun.

SAVE THE DATE





Sincere Thanks

Our deepest gratitude to all who contributed to making our Christmas Village events happen and creating a joyous and successful two days. Special thanks to the co-chairs Jim Kelleher and Rik Morris. We will share a complete listing of the committee members in the near future so you can personally thank each and every one of them.

Episcopal Community Services Christmas Gift Drive

Every holiday season, ECS Philly brings joy to over 650 children in their Out of School Time (OST) and in other agency programs. Church of the Redeemer can help make this year's Christmas brighter for these children by supporting their effort. There will be a tree in the Parish House Gathering Space, decorated with tags. Please take one! Gifts purchased independently should be wrapped and tagged with the gift type and intended recipient's gender, and placed under the tree **by December 6!**

There are additional ways to participate and there are easy one-click links included in the weekly email and from a link on www.TheRedeemer.org.

Shop the Amazon Wishlist
Skip the store and shop online!
Use the 2026 ECS OST Christmas Gift Amazon Wish List
Your gift ships directly to ECS.

Give a Gift Card
SUPPORT A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
Give a $25 Amazon gift card and let one of the 115 middle school OST students choose something they'll love this holiday season.
Use the Amazon 2026 ECS OST Christmas Gift Cards listing.

Make a Donation
Monetary gifts help us buy gifts where needed.
Donate online at www.ecsphilly.org/donate Add "OST Christmas gifts" + your parish in the comments
By check: Payable to ECS with "holiday gifts" in the memo
Mail to: 6006 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 1915
Your support ensures that every child experiences the joy, excitement, and love of the season.

All gifts must be received at ECS or ordered online by Monday, December 7. Please contact Anna Gerrity, ECS liaison for Community Connections, with any questions: 610-659-2021

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know, as we approach this season of gratitude, Stewardship 2027 has a lot to be thankful for? Thank you to the 58% of households who increased their giving for the coming year, making the total amount pledged 8.5% higher than last year. Thank you to the 6 new, or returned, gifts which show growth for the church. Thank you to the 30% who renewed last year's pledge. And thank you to everyone for being stewards of The Redeemer's resources by pledging early and saving on follow-up mailing costs and staff and volunteer time. Thank you for these wonderful statistics and if you have not already pledged for 2027, please do so ahead of the December follow-up mailing and personalized outreach from volunteers.

Pledge online here

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The Mission of the Church of the Redeemer is to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. As an open and welcoming Episcopal community, we worship, learn and grow together, supporting each other and our world through the generous and creative use of God's gifts.

NEW TO THIS COMMUNITY?

We're glad you're here! We'd like to get to know you. Please sign the guest book on the podium in the Church entrance way or fill out one of the cards in the pew. We will be in touch.

Many of us here today were not raised in The Episcopal Church, but have found in this parish a source of spiritual growth. If you might like to join this congregation or come seeking prayer or guidance, please speak to one of the clergy or call the office at 610-525-2486 or complete an online form here.

For young children, we offer a worship tote bag filled with materials meant to enhance their sense of worship and help them process new prayers, scriptures and hymns. Pick one up in the narthex.

Restrooms are located through the large wooden door halfway down the left side aisle. Baby changing stations are in the handicap restroom off the left side aisle and in the hallway restroom behind the high altar.

Wi-Fi Access
Choose: **COTR-Congregation**
Password: **Redeemer1881**

Best sources for information on all our ministries are on our:
website (www.TheRedeemer.org),
Facebook page (RedeemerBrynMawr),
Instagram (theredeemerpa).

Submission guidelines and a submission form for The News can be found at www.TheRedeemer.org/the_news.

ASK AN USHER

- For hearing assistance devices
- For a card to drop in the offering plate if you give online

THIS WEEK AT THE REDEEMER

Monday, November 23

Clement of Rome, Bishop, c. 100

12:00pm	Liturgy Meeting	Staff Conf Rm 204
1:00pm	Staff Meeging	Staff Conf Rm 204
7:30pm	Cantores Rehearsal *(building use)*	Burns Hall
8:00pm	NA	Masterman Hall

Tuesday, November 24

Catherine of Alexandria, Barbara of Nicomedia, Margaret of Antiock

4:00pm	Finance Committee	via Zoom
5:15pm	French Tutoring *(building use)*	Rm 217
7:00pm	NEW Committee	Staff Conf Rm 204
9:00pm	Compline	via Zoom

Wednesday, November 25

James Otis Sargent Huntigton, Monastic & Priest, 1935

6:00pm	Private Family Gathering *(building use)*	Pembroke Rm
7:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Masterman Hall

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

Parish Offices Closed

7:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Masterman Hall
9:00pm	Compline	via Zoom

Friday, November 27

Parish Offices Closed

9:00am	Flower Guild (Friday or Saturday)	Church

Saturday, November 28

Kamehameha & Emma of Hawaii, King & Queen

9:00am	Flower Guild (Friday or Saturday)	Church
6:00mp	Square Dance *(building use)*	Burns Hall

Sunday, November 29

The First Sunday of Advent

8:00am	Spoken Holy Eucharist Rite I	Church
9:15am	Nursery Opens	Rm 206
9:30am	Choral Matins and Holy Communion	Church + Livestream
10:40am	Coffee Hour	Parish House
10:45am	Children's Formation	Parish House 2nd Floor Classrooms
8:00pm	Compline	via Zoom

Up-to-date calendar always available on www.TheRedeemer.org/calendar
All Zoom meeting links are there as well.

WAYS TO GIVE

If you're giving cash, check, or offering envelopes,
please drop them in the offering plates at the back of the church.

Via Text | Via Venmo | Via PayPal | All Options

IN OUR PRAYERS

• For those who are sick or in need:

Hentzi Elek	Binney McCague	Malcolm
Bob Denious	Keanen	Pam Daley
Angel	Lyman Perry	Bob Hobbs
Amit	Annie	Megan
Kate Atlas	Kristen	Tom Gerrity
Tess	Jay & Martha	Fran Northrup
Dixon Sperry	Lisa	

• For those fleeing from devastation in their countries of origin.
• For the victims of violence in this country and throughout the world, especially Ukraine and the Middle East.
• For our Montgomery County neighbors who are homeless and have lost their safety nets, especially our Family Promise of the Main Line guests.
• For those who have died, and the victims of gun violence throughout this country.

If you know a parishioner who needs pastoral care or could use a visit, please contact Peter Vanderveen-pvanderveen@theredeemer.org or ext. 17, Jo Ann Jones-jjones@theredeemer.org or ext. 16, or any member of the Pastoral Care Committee.
To add names or thanksgivings to the prayer list, use the online form at: www.The-Redeemer.org/pastoral_care or contact Jo Ann Jones; jjones@theredeemer.org

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORMATION

Children's formation will meet in parish house room 221 following the 9:30 Sunday liturgy. We will continue our lessons about Abraham and Sara and the earliest beginnings of our faith.
On Sunday, November 22, Associate Rector JoAnn Jones will lead our classes so we can learn about Church of the Redeemer's annual Lessons and Carols service during Advent. We look forward to this opportunity to learn about the scriptures and music that are a part of this special liturgy.

O' Come All You Pageant Players
With Advent nearly upon us, we are gearing up for our annual children's pageant, which we will perform on Sunday, December 20th. We will have an organizational class to assign roles and distribute scripts at formation class on Sunday, November 29th following the 9:30 liturgy. We will have rehearsals on Sunday, December 6th and Sunday, December 13th at 10:45 AM. We will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 19th, (Time to be announced).
Pageant participation is open to all parish families with children between 3 and 11 years old. If your child would like to participate, please be in touch with Glenn at gbeamer@theredeemer.org.

Call for Instrument
This year the Pre K thru 6th Grade formation class have added songs and music to our curriculum. If anyone has simple instruments that are going unused, we would very much appreciate if you could consider donating them to the Redeemer's Formation program. Instruments we are seeking include claves, maracas, recorders, triangles, xylophones, bongo or snare drums, tambourines and cymbals! If you can donate any of these, please be in touch with Glenn at gbeamer@theredeemer.org.

The Redeemer Youth Group
RYG will be working the lunch counter at the Christmas Village this Saturday which will be serving from 11-1:30 pm. RYG will meet Sunday night to continue our discussion of movies that depict hope and will view a crowd favorite that incorporates all of our approaches to hope this fall. RYG will not be meeting November 29th but will be going to St. Francis Inn that morning from 10:30-2 pm, and will be bringing all of the donations to Marie's closet then.

Confirmation Class
Hospitality Suite 10:45 to 11:30am
Confirmation Class will be continuing to work through the New Testament focusing on the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation. Class will not meet November 29 but will resume December 6 to have a full review of both the Old and New Testaments.