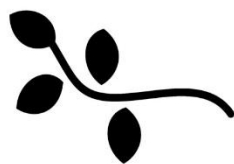




**...a season to dream, explore and recommit to
faith in action!**



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.

Sunday May 31, 2026 – 10:30 AM

Trinity Sunday – Morning Prayer

PRELUDE “Prelude and Fugue in F” - J.S. Bach

HYMN When in Our Music God Is Glorified (NCH 561)

1 When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

2 How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

3 So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia!

GREETING

The Grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be you
Also with you

CONFESSION

During the season of Pentecost we take inventory of our lives, as we confess our separation from God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

A period of silence for personal prayer and reflection will be observed.

Let us pray together;

Most merciful God, we confess before you and one another that we have fallen short of the wholeness you desire for us. We have betrayed your trust. We have been less than you created us to be. We have failed to speak out against that which is evil. We have cooperated with systems of injustice. We have built our prosperity upon the lives of others who suffer. We know that you accept and forgive us. We know that you are always ready to heal us of our ignorance and lack of concern for others. Help us to open our hearts to your love, that in so doing we may love ourselves along with our neighbor, strive for justice for all people, and hold forth the vision of what is possible. This we pray as Jesus, our great teacher modeled and who chose life in choosing death. AMEN.

ABSOLUTION

The Officiant says to the People:

God freely offers forgiveness and calls us to turn and live in the joy of God’s love. God has given power to all people to forgive one another and themselves. Therefore,

know that God forgives us. Therefore let us forgive ourselves and accept others forgiveness and be free.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God our mystery, you bring us to life, call us to freedom, and move between us with love. May we so participate in the dance of your trinity, that our lives may resonate with you, now and forever. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE APPOINTED for the DAY

Our first reading from the book of Psalms

O God, my heart is not lifted up,
My eyes are not raised too high:
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child with its mother:
Like a weaned child at its mother's breast so lies my soul within me.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Our Second reading from "Mysteries, Yes" by Mary Oliver.

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous
to be understood.
How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.
How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.
How two hands touch and the bonds will
never be broken.
How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.
Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.
Let me keep company always with those who say
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the people of God,

Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Jesus, they worshiped Jesus, but some wavered. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Creator and of the beloved Child and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

The Gospel of the Savior.

Praise to you, O Christ

HYMN O God, In Your Love

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

O God, in your love, you have made us unique:
In gifts and traditions, in service we seek,
In race and in culture and family design
Diverse are the branches in Jesus the Vine.
God, Jesus, you came to bring God's love on earth;
You welcomed the outcasts and showed us our worth.
You reached out to people whom others despised
You said all are precious in God's loving eyes.
So may your church welcome in loving accord
All people who want to serve Jesus our God.
O Spirit, unite us in Jesus the One
In mission and ministry, God, make us one.

Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's *Caniadau y Cyssegr* (*Songs of the Sanctuary*), 1839 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

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HOMILY - Jody Caldwell

CREED

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS and PETITIONS of the PEOPLE

O God of our hearts, God of love, you are with us in every transition and change.
We recall your deep compassion, presence and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.
God of mercy, God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

During this season of Pentecost, let us hold close to our hearts all those in need, those who suffer, and those who mourn. In the prayers that follow, you are invited to respond with your own concerns and thanksgivings related to the particular focus of each petition

For those who are experiencing homelessness, unemployment, underemployment or loneliness, that we may lift each other's' burdens.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of mercy,

Receive our prayer.

For the health and regeneration of our living planet Earth, that we may accept our responsibility for its care and future.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of creation,

Receive our prayer.

For all who govern within our towns, states and nations that they will hear and heed the cry of all in need, and awaken to the call for peace.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of reconciliation,

Receive our prayer

For those who struggle to see you in their lives and relationships, that we may reflect your Divine love to them.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of tenderness,

Receive our prayer.

For all who are harmed because of their race or ethnicity, that we may work to dismantle systems of oppression.

(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)

O God of love,

Receive our prayer.

We now pray the concerns and thanksgivings of this parish family.

(You are invited to add additional concerns and thanksgivings.)

We know that you hear our prayers, O God. During this season of Pentecost, help us to open ourselves to the needs of those around us, that by so doing, we may reveal the beauty of your beloved community. **Amen.**

Holy and gracious Creator: in your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen astray and became vulnerable to evil, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

Before Jesus's mortal death, he taught us, and we are bold to pray in whatever language or form that brings us closer to God,

**Our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ is with you.

Also, with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

Rachel McDonough – Soprano; Chris Henke - Piano

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray together

Creator of this gathering beyond measure and price; we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness so that none might be lost: liberate us now to share our bread with neighbors and strangers, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. AMEN.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN God Be with You (NCH 81)

1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [*Refrain*]

4 God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

DISMISSAL

Friends, how good and pleasant it is to be together, encouraging and consoling, provoking and inspiring. But now the service is ended — and now the wider service begins. Go in peace — **into the world, for the love of the world!**

POSTLUDE *“Ein Feste Burg”* - Jan Bender

ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

* **The Serendipity Stitchers** welcome you. 1st and 3rd **Tuesdays** at **1:30 p.m.** Our gatherings are always full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

*** The Book Group meets online at 7pm:**

June meeting - 6/1 **The Correspondent** - Virginia Evans

June meeting - 6/29 **Theo of Golden** - Allen Levi

July meeting - 7/27 **There are Rivers in the Sky** - Elif Shafak

Please support your local bookshop and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

Garden of Hope: Our next garden work session will be **Saturday, 5/30, from 8-11AM.**

We will continue to have pop-up sessions, also. So please come and get involved! Get on the email list.

- Branch out: Sticks and logs less than 34 inches long are needed to fill the raised beds Jim is building (yea Jim!) Bring to the garden in back of church, please.
- Compost Call: bring to church: veggie/fruit scraps, coffee grounds (lots!), paper tea bags (minus string, tag, and staple,) flowers past their prime. Ask your local coffee shop!
- If you have a raised garden bed you would like to donate, please contact Peg.
- We need people who live close to church who can easily water the garden once a week for a half hour. Hot weather means thirsty plants!
- Peg can be reached at [pegonplanetearth\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pegonplanetearth@gmail.com) or see her on Sundays. Thank you!

Keep updated with all that is going on at Redeemer

Visit our website: <https://redeermorrystown.org/> for further information and to sign up for our newsletter.

Please "like" and check out our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/FBchurch> or follow us on Instagram - @RedeemerMorrystown - <http://bit.ly/Instachurch>.

We are now on BlueSky -@redeermorrystown.bsky.social , <https://bit.ly/RedeemerBSKY>



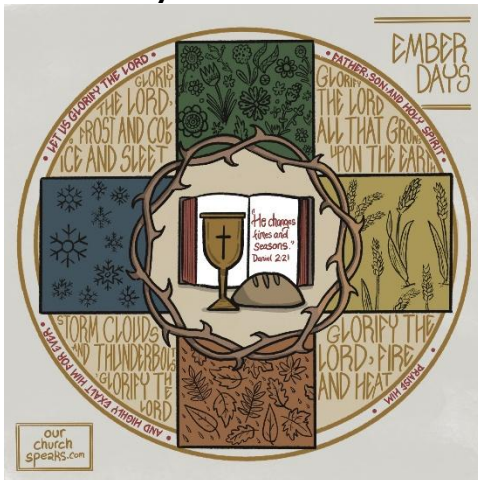
Donate easily, by credit card, or directly from your bank account. Scan this QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, instantly connecting you to the mobile version of our web page. Try it!
Visit our website- www.redeermorrystown.org and click on "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner.
Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>

From Rev. Willie J. Smith

The Season of Pentecost is a time of learning, discerning what the Spirit is teaching us. The Gospel offers us the space to consider how we live our lives as followers of Jesus.

I am reminded of the passage from Hebrews 13:2: "Some have entertained angels without realizing it." Hospitality goes beyond providing socially accepted norms of behavior; it is also a mindfulness and respect for the person or space we encounter. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of this week observe the Ember Days, a time when we enter the new season of the year. As we transition from spring into summer, we ask God's blessing on the season of longer sunsets and hot temperatures. The seasons are our teachers. They have much to offer us, especially as we interact with each other. Perhaps we may encounter an angel.

Ember Days



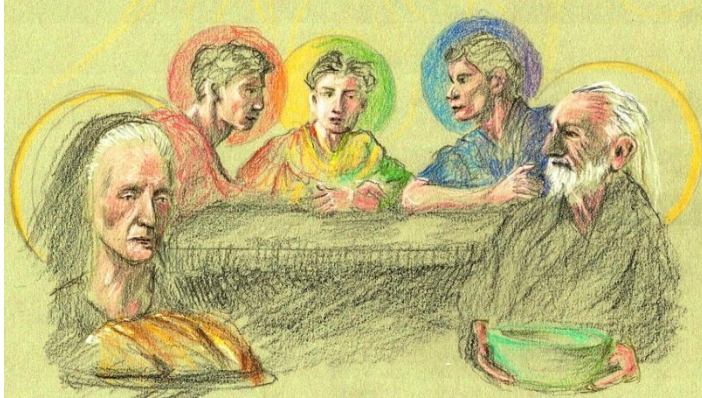
Near the beginnings of winter, spring, summer, and autumn, the church pauses for fasting and prayer, asking God for provision and guidance in the coming season. This is a time for reflection and planning, personal prayer retreats, writing goals for the coming quarter, and reflecting on entries in the past quarter's prayer journal. In particular, the church prays for those seeking ordination and asks God to supply able and faithful ministers who will guide Christ's flock with the love and truth of Christ. Traditionally, at this time, those in the ordination process send a letter to their bishop, sharing updates and

prayer requests. These four times of fasting, prayer, and reflection are called "Ember Days," and they are of such ancient origin that the definitive reason for this name has been lost. The Ember Days take place quarterly on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following St. Lucy's Day (13 December, Winter Ember Days), the first Sunday of Lent (Spring Ember Days), Pentecost (Summer Ember Days), and Holy Cross Day (14 September, Autumn Ember Days). These roughly match the solstices and equinoxes of the four seasons and serve as a regular reminder that our lives, our hopes, and our futures are always in the hands of our loving God in Heaven.

"Glorify God, frost and cold, ice and sleet. Glorify God, all that grows upon the earth. Glorify God, fire and heat, storm clouds and thunderbolts; glorify God. Let us glorify God, Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. Praise God and highly exalt God forever." - Benedicite, A Song of Creation

Trinity Sunday (Pride Month) The Hospitality of Sarah and Abraham

The artist chose to portray the three angels, whom Abraham treated as an



epiphany of the Lord, as three beautiful young men, with rainbow halos and garments. Genesis records that God uses the rainbow as the sign of the covenant with humanity, so it is a marker of God's presence. (The Pride aspect lies in the fact that, in addition, two of the young men will go off to visit Sodom, while one remains with Abraham

and Sarah. The two visitors will be threatened with assault and gang rape by the people of the town. Modern readers have seen this as an early example of homophobic assault; that is, the villagers perceive the beautiful young men as gay and so want to teach them a murderous lesson. Given what is happening here in this country and other parts of the world these days, it is a good reminder that, as we do to the least of those among us, we do to God.



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