

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

March 2025

For God Alone my Soul in Silence Waits

Thousands of years ago, a devout person, tossed about by the storms of life, knelt down before God in the silence of the Temple. Only when this sacred silence had penetrated the depths of his soul was he able to say these words: "For God alone my soul in silence waits; from Him comes my salvation." Oh, you ancient singer, you appear to us like an image from a pleasant dream for which we long, yet find so distant from us. We are attracted to you, but we no longer understand you. Teach us something about the silence of the soul, the soul that waits for God.

As the infant becomes still while lying upon its mother's breast, as the youth is silent when he looks up to his hero, as the crying child longs for the touch of his mother's hand on his brow to chase away all the cares of the world, as the husband finds his anxiety stilled in the warmth of his wife's smile, so our souls are to be stilled from unrest, agitation, and hurriedness before the eyes of God. Our thirst is to be quenched, our desires become true happiness, as we find our rest from the heat of the day in the shadow of God's hand. Our souls are to cast off care and burdens and find freedom in the glance of God; they are to be silent in reverence and adoration. For in Him do our souls wait.

Being silent means being unable to say anything more; it means that a strange but dear hand has placed itself upon our lips to make us be still; it means giving ourselves totally -- capitulating to the overwhelming power of the Lord, the One who is totally Other than ourselves. It means for a moment to no longer be concerned only about this world, no longer seeing only ourselves, but in our deepest parts seeing only the Lord. It also means waiting; waiting for the Lord to speak to us. Just as Samuel lay down in quietness for the Lord to speak, so must our hearts lie down. Being silent before God means making room for Him so that He might talk to us, to say the first and last word about us, and then receiving that word, whatever it might be, for all eternity. It means not wanting to justify ourselves or our actions before God, but just laying ourselves out, and wait for His mercy. To be silent does not mean to be inactive, but rather it means to breathe in the Will of God, to listen attentively and be ready to obey. The time of silence is a time of responsibility, a time when we must work at listening. It is a time of blessedness, because it is here that God gives to us the surest affirmation of His Peace. For us to pray, as did the psalmist, "For God alone my soul in silence waits," is to say, "Speak, o Lord, for your servant hears."

God's times of waiting are times of salvation. His answer to our troubled souls is one and the same to each of us, whether to the woman who puts behind her the hustle and bustle of her work and tasks, or to the sick old man who cries to the Lord in his misery. To one and all God speaks the words: I love you. To be sure, the fire of God's love burns up all that is evil and false in the human heart, and that causes us very great pain. To be silent before God is to be humbled, to feel the tears of contrition, but beyond it, greater than all, is the joy of love and grace...

... We are led to ask: What do we need to do to reach this state of silent waiting? None of us is so rushed that we cannot begin with ten minutes away from all else, sitting in solitude, expectant of the still quiet voice that moves the heart. We might have at hand a few verses of the Scriptures to read, but we are best to allow the soul to make its own way to the Father's House, to the Home for which we long, in which we find Peace. Whoever works at this day-by-day, the promise of the Lord is this: He will not leave us. His gift to us is for us to experience the eternal silence which rests in the love of God. Cares and sorrows, unrest and haste, noise and confusion, dreams and anxieties -- all are washed in calm, stilled in the silence before God, in which we wait for Him alone, from whom comes salvation.

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Midweek Lent Services and Suppers

The Season of Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday service on March 5, 2025 at 4:00 pm. Midweek Lent Services will be held on the following Wednesdays, March 12, 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9, at 6:30 pm.

Each Wednesday during Lent, a supper will be held in the Parlor from 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM. The suppers are prepared by volunteers each week. There will be two signup sheets posted at the Welcome Center, one for the weekly volunteer hosts and one for the people who will be attending (so the hosts have an idea how much to prepare).

If you are interested in hosting, all that is required is a meal and dessert of your choosing. Bowls, plates, utensils, and butter will be on hand for you to use. There is cooking equipment in the kitchen, or you can prepare the meal at home and bring it in. If you would like to participate but do not have time to prepare a meal, Carry Out/Delivery is also an option.

This is a great opportunity for some Our Redeemer fellowship. Please consider hosting one of the five weeks and plan to attend all five weeks to enjoy the company of your fellow members.

The first supper will be held on Wednesday, March 12.

If you have any questions, please contact Traudy.

Food Pantry Update

The committee has finished their research and is in the process of opening a food pantry here at Our Redeemer. We are planning to open on June 4th, on a small scale by offering only 'dry and canned goods'. The goal is to be open twice a month for needy residents residing in Prospect Heights. We will be gathering input from local schools and Police Dept. social workers as to the number of families that would benefit from attending our Food Pantry. We will also be developing signs and other forms of advertising to help those in need know we are here to help them. As we move along, the First Korean Methodist Church of Chicago (FKMCC) has also offered to assist in getting this program off and running, with both churches possibly conducting 'food drives' to help add to the already stocked items we will be receiving. Questions, please contact Traudy Burmeister or Stacey Hall.

SONSHINE NEWS

Thank you, thank you, thank you - Our annual Spaghetti Dinner/Raffles/Auction/Play was a huge success. Many, many thanks goes out to those who volunteered time to put this together, or those who purchased tickets for dinner, raffles and silent auctions. We couldn't have done it without all of you. We sold approximately 114 tickets between Sonshine families, church members and friends. We had our largest profit ever of over \$3600. Many thanks from the Sonshine Staff!!!!