red mountain church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

GATHERING EVERY SUNDAY AT 5 PM AVON THEATER

GATHERING

REFLECTION

For parents, birth is marked by joy and wonder, accompanied by birth announcements and gifts. The details, sparse as they are — weight: 6 pounds 10 ounces; length: 21 inches; name: Veronica Ann; date of birth: May 6 — are received with awed reverence. The euphoria lasts a few weeks ... but hardly indefinitely.

For these same parents, growth is marked by fatigue, anxiety, panicked late-night calls to the doctor, confused decisions regarding discipline, worried conferences with teachers, puzzling over adolescent behavior and misbehavior. Birth is quick and easy (at lest it seems that way to fathers — mothers have a different slant on it); growth is endless and complex.

— Eugene Peterson, from *Practice Resurrection*

Lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

— Hebrews 12:1-3

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

FROM EPHESIANS 5

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

> **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.**

Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

> **Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

HYMN OF ADORATION

KING OF SAINTS

Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal
Words: Joseph Hart
Music: Clint Wells, 2004

Jesus Christ, God's holy lamb,
We will laud thy lovely name;
We were saved by God's decree,
And all our debt was paid by thee.

Thou has washed us in thy blood,
Made us kings and priests to God;
Take this tribute of the poor;
Less we can't, we can't give more.

Souls redeemed, your voices raise,
Sing your dear Redeemer's praise;
Worthy thou of love and laud,
King of saints, incarnate God.

Righteous are thy ways and true;
Endless honors are thy due;
Grace and glory in thee shine;
Matchless mercy, love divine.

We for whom thou once was slain,
We thy ransomed sinner train,
In this one request agree,
"Spirit make us more like thee."

Nursery
Ages: 8 weeks – 3 years

Children's Lessons
"Beulah Land"
Age: 3
Structured nursery time including free play, Bible story, "work" time (artwork), and snack.

"Godly Play"
Ages: 4 – 9
Children are welcome to accompany their parents in church until dismissed for their lesson. Contact Bobby Bardin.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight's Nursery
Cole-Lumpkin CG

August 29 Nursery
Pickering CG

Each community group is asked to recruit 4 volunteers to serve in the nursery. Volunteers should arrive at 4:45 p.m. If your group can't participate on the assigned date, swap with another group at least a week in advance. Contact Bobby Bardin.

Announcements
To have an announcement added to the bulletin, email Stephanie Laughlin.

Lost & found
located in kitchen.

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION, SEE BACK PAGE.

CHURCH BUSINESS

Church Party: TONIGHT, following the worship service to welcome the Youngs to RMC. The church will be providing pizza, so please stay and visit!

Communion Set-up Volunteers Needed: 5 more volunteers are needed to help set up the communion table and find servers. If you are interested in serving the church in this way, please contact Sarah Margaret Wade (SARAHMARGARET.WADE@GMAIL.COM).

Community Groups starting back: Community groups are starting back after a summer break. If you are interested in joining a group, please email Stephanie Laughlin.

"What is Red Mountain Church?" Class: September 11, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Avon Theater. This class explores what we believe as a church and why we do what we do. For potential RMC members and anyone wanting to know more. Contact Stephanie Laughlin.

Women's Bible study: Starting in September, two groups will be reading Nancy Guthrie's *Hoping for Something Better*. If you are interesting in joining the evening group, contact Sarah Torsch (SFTORSCH@GMAIL.COM) or Carolyn Adkins (CADKINS@BHAM.RR.COM). If you are interested in joining the daytime group, please email Meredith Grimm (MEREDITH.GRIMM@GMAIL.COM). Days & times TBA.

HYMN OF ADORATION

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

Words: Christian Bateman
Music: Traditional Spanish Folk Melody

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high,
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!

He is our Guide and Friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end.
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again,
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore,
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God opposes the proud,
But he gives grace to the humble.
Let us confess our our sins together ...
O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb; I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights; I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days, my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race, my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, and my unspent opportunities. I am blind while the light shines around me: take the scales from my eyes, grind to dust my heart of unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study You, meditate on You, gaze on You, sit like Mary at your feet, lean like John on your breast, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things dung.
Please silently confess your sins to God ...

WORDS OF GRACE

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

DAVID PIATT HOWARD

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

ADAPTED FROM THE BAPTISM LITURGY OF THE 1662 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Do you believe in God the Father?

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

We 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.

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

We renounce them.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

We will, with God's help

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

We will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

We will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being, rich and poor, sick and well, Christian and non-Christian?

We will, with God's help.

BAPTISM HYMN

Words: Henriette L. Von Hayn, 1778

I am Jesus' little lamb
Ever glad at heart I am
For my Shepherd gently guides me
Knows my need and well provides me
Loves me every day the same
Even calls me by my name

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray together ...

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Here the leader intercedes for the congregation, community, and world at large.)

The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray,

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH (GODLY PLAY — PRE-K THRU 3RD)

DEVOTED TO THE SCRIPTURES

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PSALM 51

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL & GUILT

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING

HYMN OF OFFERING

** Please remain seated for offering hymn (congregation sings in unison).*

BENEATH THE CROSS

Words: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
(women) The shadow of a mighty
Rock within a weary land;
(men) The sha-dow in a wea-ry-land
(women) A home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
(men) A home, a rest, upon-the-way
From the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see,
(women) The very dying form of One
who suffered there for me:
(men) The ve-ry dying, One-for-me
(women) And from my stricken heart
with tears two wonders I confess
(men) And from my heart, I-con-fess
The wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
(women) I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of His face;
(men) I ask, no other than-His-face
(women) Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss;
(men) Content to know no gain-nor-loss
My sinful self my only shame,
my glory, all the cross.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

(Greet one another with a sign of friendship such as: "The peace of Christ be with you" & "And also with you.")

PREPARING FOR THE TABLE

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

It is good and right to do so!

Truly it is good and right that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven and all the Church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosannah!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosannah in the highest!

We break bread in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast.

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH UNBELIEF

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

(*continued on next page*)

The Passing of the Peace, or Pax Domini, is an ancient part of Christian worship and was established as an element of communion liturgy. Here we observe it as preparation for approaching the Lord's Table. Not to be seen simply as a "grab and gab" time, it is a moment where we joyfully but reverently express our union and reconciliation with each other in Christ.

We welcome all followers of Jesus Christ to partake in this sacrament of communion: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is of benefit to you as you reflect on your relationship with Christ and with his people, the church.

We celebrate by coming forward to feast at the Lord's table. Please approach the table, break off a piece of the bread, and drink the wine from the common cup as it is offered to you. If you don't feel comfortable drinking the wine or are concerned for health reasons, there are smaller cups of juice available.

The Last Word
God always has the last word in our worship. Our tradition at Red Mountain Church is to extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

PRAYER FOR THOSE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE

God, I am beginning to see that I am more sinful and lost than I dared to believe, and yet in Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared to dream. I thank you for the work of Christ, his atoning death and his perfect life, which are credited to me when I turn from my sin and believe. Help me to embrace Christ as he is offered to me in the gospel, and in believing, help me live a new life.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS STRUGGLING WITH SIN

O Lord, my transgression is ever before me! It clings to me! Help me believe that the Gospel is bigger than my sin. Help me see that Jesus' work not only frees me from the penalty of sin, but also breaks sin's power. As I feast on the bread and wine, convince me that I am no longer struggling to be free from sin, but that in Christ I am now free to struggle with my sin.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

GOD OF MY LIFE, TO THEE I CALL

Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal #967
Words: William Cowper
Music: Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy & Benj Pocta, 2007

God of my life, to Thee I call,
Afflicted at Thy feet I fall;
When the great water floods prevail
Leave not my trembling heart to fail.

Poor though I am, despised, forgot
Yet God, my God, forgets me not;
And He is safe and must succeed for whom
The Lord is sure to plead.

Friend of the friendless and the saint,
Where should I lodge my deep complaint?
Where but with Thee, whose open door
Invites the helpless and the poor!

That were a grief I could not bear,
Didst Thou not hear and answer prayer;
But a prayer hearing, answering God
Supports me under every load.

BENEDICTION

RED MOUNTAIN CHURCH

POST OFFICE BOX 55825 BIRMINGHAM AL 35255

(205) 321-2510 / REDMOUNTAINCHURCH.ORG

Tom Cannon *Pastor*
201-1810 tcannon@redmountainchurch.org

Adam Young *Assistant Pastor*
447-8647 ayoung@redmountainchurch.org

Jeff Koonce *Chief Musician*
585-5228 jkoonce779@earthlink.net

Bobby Bardin *Children's Coordinator*
453-4361 bobby@redmountainchurch.org

Sarah Allen *Financial Administrator*
994-4234 sarah@redmountainchurch.org

Stephanie Laughlin *Administrative Assistant*
529-0479 stephanie@redmountainchurch.org

ELDERS

Andrew Cordell	222-9335	acordell@southernco.com
Mark Gignilliat	726-4123	msgignil@samford.edu
Miles Gresham	492-0318	milesgresham@mac.com
Cal Morris	542-6923	

DEACONS

Bobby Bardin	453-4361	bobby@redmountainchurch.org
Rodney Green	368-5286	lawn-mowwer@hotmail.com
Brooks Lumpkin	903-2352	brooksl@gmail.com
John Williams	602-1100	jwilliams@mawins.com

To receive weekly email announcements, Go to:
redmountainchurch.org/news/newsletter.html
Or you can click on "News," then "Signup for Newsletter."

Sermons available for download: redmountainchurch.org.
Hymn lyrics reprinted with permission: CCLI 2321334

New to Red Mountain Church? You'll get a chance to meet some folks during our worship services, but real relationships take time. Community groups are the best way to find your stride at RMC and to join in the life of the church. Groups meet in members' homes in neighborhoods across the city, and meeting formats vary. For more information about community groups or church membership, contact Stephanie Laughlin.

OUR PLACE

Within a few miles of Red Mountain lives all the diversity of Birmingham, Alabama. Throughout Southside, UAB, Highlands, Downtown, Lakeview, Avondale, Woodlawn, Crestwood and Homewood, the glory and the poverty of the city are mixed together. Red Mountain Church hopes to be deeply rooted in these few square miles. Stand in downtown Birmingham anytime day or night, and you will see "the friendless, the sorrowing, the rich, and the poor." This is our place!

OUR PURPOSE

To embrace and embody the gospel in the church and among all the people of Birmingham with the hope of seeing the joy and peace of Christ's kingdom come to our city.

OUR HOPES FOR BIRMINGHAM

That Christ will create, out of the diverse communities of our city, a new worshipping community, which will experience the grace, joy and freedom of the gospel. "Praise awaits you O God in Zion ... blessed are those you have chosen. We are filled with the good things of your house!" (Psalm 65)

That we will become a welcoming community, open to the skeptic, the seeker, the new convert and the struggling Christian. That we will meet needs (spiritual, physical, social), and share together in the life of Christ. "They broke bread in each other's homes with glad and sincere hearts, enjoying the favor of all the people. And God added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2)

That we will become a serving community that loves our city and which gives to, challenges and changes Birmingham through gospel ministries of word, justice and mercy. "They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." (Isaiah 61)

That we will become a growing community that helps establish other churches around Birmingham, the nation and the world. "All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing." (Colossians 1)

WE BELIEVE...

WE BELIEVE that the gospel — as taught in Scripture and lived out through the church — changes everything