



REDEEMER  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

## Why Church Planting?

In the book of Acts, we see the method for how God's church grows. It begins with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; it grows as the gospel is proclaimed, and it multiplies as people are sent out. Whether under ideal circumstances (Acts 13) or not (Acts 8), this is the method that the Lord has always used to grow and multiply His church. We are to be a sent people. Regardless of the circumstances, when the church goes out and proclaims the good news, the results are the same - there is great joy in the city (Acts 8:8). From her inception, Church of the Apostles has been committed to being a church that sends people out to plant new churches so that the good news of God's great redemption might continue to bring boundless joy to many people.

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## Where?

Redeemer Anglican Church will be planted near downtown Raleigh. We are heading this direction for several reasons:

- ❖ First, because we are called. Six years ago, Ford and Lindsay sensed a call to move into Southeast Raleigh and they have been living in and serving this community ever since, working for the good of the city. Over the years, others have joined them, moving into the city and reaching out to the city.
  - ❖ Second, there is not currently an ethnically diverse expression of Anglicanism in Raleigh. If the scriptures are true that one day people from every nation, tribe, people and language will stand before God and praise Him, then we do our city a disservice by not modeling that unity in Christ on earth. (Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11, Revelation 7:9-12)
  - ❖ Third, because ten years ago Church of the Apostles made a commitment to not forget the city of Raleigh after considering downtown as a location for herself. To this day, a commitment to the city is one of the core values of Church of the Apostles. This church plant is an expression of that commitment.
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## Mission (What God has called us to do)

The mission of the Church has been given by our Lord in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40). In summary, these 'great instructions' of our Lord call us to make disciples of Jesus as we love God and love one another. This is the aim of the church.

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## Purpose (Why we do it)

In the end of the book of Hebrews, we are reminded that Jesus suffered outside of the city gate to make the people holy through His own blood and that we are called to follow Him outside of the city gates (Hebrews 13:12-13). In ancient times, that meant going to places that were outside of the safety and comfort of the community of God's people into dry, desolate, sometimes dangerous places. In our day and age, those places are no longer on the outside of our cities, but into the heart of our cities and into the hearts of our neighbors who are far from God.

*Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.*  
— Hebrews 13:13

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## Vision (What it will ultimately look like)

The vision of Redeemer Anglican Church is that we would be a people who **Participate with Christ in the Redemption of All Things**. We do that as we **Sit with Jesus, Share His Hope and Serve His World**.

**Sit with Jesus** – First and foremost we are called to become disciples ourselves. Throughout His life, Jesus regularly modeled a pattern of drawing away from the busyness of life and ministry in order to pray to His Father in Heaven. With His disciples, Jesus consistently pulled them aside and called them away for times of rest, instruction and connection. Even before our service to Him, we are invited to sit at the feet of Jesus to rest, to listen and to be filled. It is at the feet of Jesus, and at the foot of His cross, that we experience His redeeming work in our lives. Our life of faith begins here.

*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.*  
– Mark 6:31

**Share His Hope** – In 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Paul proclaims the unbelievable reality that we have been reconciled to God through Christ. We have hope because of Christ, and our lives are redeemed and made new by that truth. Paul then reminds the church that we have been entrusted with sharing that message of reconciliation with others. It is as the church is sent out to share this message that the redeeming work of Christ is made known in the world.

*‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...’*  
– Isaiah 52:7

**Serve His World** – While the work of redemption is undoubtedly something that only Christ can do, still, Christ has chosen to use His church to be His physical, tangible presence here on earth. We are sent out into the world to be the aroma of Christ, His witnesses to the world, the caretakers of His sheep. So while there is no doubt that it is the Lord who redeems, in His grace and mercy, He often uses His church to accomplish His purposes on earth.

*‘everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.’*  
– 2 Corinthians 12:19

## Values

### ***Christ Centered***

We believe that Jesus is our redeemer and our only hope for salvation. All of the scriptures point to Him and so we look to Him as our source of everything in life and ministry (Acts 4:12, John 5:39-40, Luke 24:44, 1 John 5:11-13). ***Redeemer Anglican Church will be centered on Christ.***

### ***Prayer Saturated***

Jesus modeled prayer for His disciples, taught them how to pray and exhorted them to pray continuously. The scriptures teach that when we pray according to God’s will, we can be confident that God hears our prayers and gives us beyond what we can ask or even imagine – as it is best for us. Prayer is the means by which we commune with God in conversation and the way that we cry out for His help in times of need. (Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8, 1 John 5:14-15, James 1:5, Ephesians 3:20) ***Everything at Redeemer Anglican Church will be saturated in prayer.***

### ***Invitational Spirit***

From the beginning of His ministry to the present day, Jesus constantly extends an invitation for anyone and everyone to come and to follow Him. Even before we are sure of what we believe, we are invited to come and to taste and to see that He is good. At the close of the scriptures, the Spirit of God and the Church of God extend an open invitation to come; and everyone who hears that invitation is encouraged to invite others. Ultimately, anyone who thirsts for something more in life is invited to come. (Matthew 4:19, Psalm 34:8, Revelation

22:17, John 6:37) ***Redeemer Anglican Church will always keep her heart, arms, and doors extended in an open invitation to come.***

***Authentic Relationships*** Throughout the New Testament, believers are called to make an honest assessment of themselves – to humbly admit when they are wrong, to trust in Christ in their shortcomings, and to love one another authentically through it all. The scriptures exhort us to love one another, honor one another, serve one another, encourage one another, be kind and compassionate towards one another, speak truthfully to one another and at times to bear with one another. Following the example of Paul, we are called to open our hearts wide towards one another. (Romans 12:3, Matthew 7:5, 2 Corinthians 12:9, James 5:16, 2 Corinthians 6:13) ***Redeemer Anglican Church will grow from a spirit of authenticity.***

***Radical Love*** Jesus said that the greatest expression of love is to lay down your life for someone else. He then demonstrated that love by dying for us on the cross. On the night before He died, Jesus commanded us to love one another with that same kind of love. The scriptures teach that when we love one another with that kind of love, people will know that we are disciples of Jesus and they will praise God as a result. (John 13:35, 15:13, Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12) ***Everything at Redeemer Anglican Church will be done with radical love.***

***Fasting & Feasting*** The kingdom of heaven is often described as a banquet and a great feast that is filled with rich food and fine wine. Throughout the scriptures, when the people of God remember the great things that God had done for them, they celebrated with feasts and festivals. Jesus told His disciples that after He had risen from the dead, they would rejoice and no one would take away their joy. In the hope of the resurrection and the redemption of all things, we rejoice in the work of Christ in our lives and in this world. Yet we also realize that the Kingdom of Heaven is not yet fully here and that we presently live in a broken world that is filled with pain and suffering. We balance these tensions in seasons of Fasting and Feasting. (Luke 14:15-24, Leviticus 23, Song of Songs 2:4, Isaiah 25:6, John 16:22, Matthew 9:14-15) ***Redeemer Anglican Church will embrace the scriptures' model of Feasting and Fasting.***

***Kingdom Diversity*** The Scriptures teach that every human being is made in the image of God and that one day all of the nations will stand before the throne of God and worship together. This gathering began at Pentecost when the Spirit of God enabled the disciples to proclaim the gospel to people from every nation under heaven. When we associate our lives with Christ, the distinctions of race, class and gender that previously divided are removed and we are made one in Him. God has created different kinds of people and given them different types of gifts, and the body of Christ only functions properly when every part is valued and contributes to the common good. (Genesis 1:26, Revelation 7:9-10, Acts 2, Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11, 1 Corinthians 12) ***Redeemer Anglican Church will celebrate the Kingdom Diversity of our lives and our gifts.***

## Strategy

The vision for Redeemer Anglican Church stems from a desire to grow our faith, build relationships and serve in ministries as a natural extension of where we are already living life. Rather than build church as a separate part of an established life, we desire to trust in the creative powers of Christ to redeem and be at work in the places our hearts' desires have led us. In practice, this strategy will allow Spirit-led authenticity in faith, fellowship, and service.

### *Discipleship*

As the church is established, we will seek to grow as disciples of Jesus by participating in the following rhythms of life:

#### ❖ **Weekly Corporate Worship**

- As a community, we will gather weekly to sing praise to God, say prayers to God, read and preach the word of God and to participate in the life of God through the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. We will worship the Lord through modern expressions of ancient practices that have shaped and formed the people of God throughout history.

#### ❖ **Sitting With Jesus**

- As a community, we will encourage one another to spend time alone with the Lord on a daily basis and we will foster an environment for them to do so by equipping them with readings and prayers that guide and structure the time.

#### ❖ **Gathering as Community**

- Periodically throughout year, we will gather as men, women, and families to encourage learning and fellowship. These gatherings may include:
  - Women's Ministry Bible Study
  - Men's Ministry Monthly Gathering
  - Newcomer's Community Groups
  - Church-wide Retreats

#### ❖ **Sharing His Hope & Serving His World**

- At Redeemer Anglican Church, outreach will be within reach. This will happen as we release people to serve intentionally in the spaces where they are already living life. By encouraging the church to be creative and to dream how God might redeem even the most mundane of activities when He is invited in, the foundation of RAC Outreach is not to create more work for people to do "for" their church, rather an encouragement to take Christ into the lives we are already living. After sitting with Jesus and sharing in His hope, we will let that fullness spill over into our neighborhoods, schools, offices and city. Outreach will be a natural extension of where we are already living, and the church will work to support and encourage its body as they intentionally serve as they live.
- Examples of this are Jobs for Life classes, mentoring, neighborhood bible studies, Eastwood Outreach, coaching community sports' teams, volunteering in schools, starting Boy Scout tribes, leading fitness initiatives etc. As we see need and opportunity in our neighborhoods and communities, we will step forward trusting that Jesus is at work and that outreach is within reach. From this natural extension of serving where we are living and with people whom we are already in relationship, community within the church and within the city will grow. Redemption is always within reach.