



# REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN

*To all who are weary and desire rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort, to all who sin and need a Savior, Redeemer opens wide her doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.*

## the kingdom

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11 samuel



January 7, 2024 – Epiphany Sunday

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### **Season of the Cross:** Gold for Christmastide

Christmastide runs from Christmas Day until Epiphany Sunday. It is a celebration of the birth and incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God and true man. While many Christians recognize Christmas as a celebration of Jesus' birth, the season is also a time to celebrate the incarnation, that is, God becoming human in the person of Jesus. This season is commonly referred to as the twelve days of Christmas.

## **Call to Worship:** Psalm 105:1-3

*We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reminds us of who God is and what He expects from us.*

***Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!***

## **Song of Ascent**

*The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (Psalm 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, bodies, for worship by singing about the God we serve.*

## Great Things

## **Reading of the Law:** Isaiah 65:17-18, 21-23

*While the law cannot justify us or make us righteous; it is a teacher given to lead us to Christ, the fulfiller of the law.*

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness... They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

## **Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

*We pray together, praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).*

## **Assurance of Pardon:** Titus 3:4-7

*We read God's Word together and are reminded that grace and mercy are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## **Greeting**

*In Jesus, we have not only been reconciled to God, we have also been reconciled to one another. Therefore, we greet one another as brothers and sisters.*

## Song of Praise and Celebration

*Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done to save us*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

## Worship Through Giving: Give Online at [redeemerwh.org/give](https://redeemerwh.org/give)

*We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of this church and the kingdom of God.*

## Kids' Worship Dismissal

*Children **through kindergarten** are dismissed for kids' worship.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

*We again express in prayer our gratitude to God for what he has done and ask him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and the world.*

## Proclamation of God's Word

*A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.*

2 Samuel 7:1-29

## Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

*As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.*

**We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Sacrament of Communion

*The ritual meal of Communion is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the work Christ did for our salvation (sign) and communicates the grace and mercy we have been given (seal) as a result of His death and resurrection.*

## Song of Response & Sending

*We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.*

Nothing But the Blood

## Benediction

*Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.*

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
May the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
May the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,  
Both now and forevermore. Amen.

## Proclamation of God's Word

*A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.*

7:1 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." 3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, 5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

## Proclamation of God's Word (cont.)

*A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.*

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD! 20 And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! 21 Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 22 Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? 24 And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God. 25 And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. 26 And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. 27 For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. 29 Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

Pg. 259 (2 Samuel 7:1-29 ESV)

## Resources

Mark Boda, *After God's Own Heart*

Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Samuel*

Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall*

Christopher Watkin, *Biblical Critical Theory*

## Discussion Questions

1. Prayerfully reflect on your heart, circumstances, relationships, etc. How did you "come" into worship today?
2. Where did the gospel "dwell in you richly" in the service today? In the prayers? In the singing? In the sermon?
3. Specifically, how were you led to turn from sin and trust in Jesus?
4. What is the one thing from the sermon this morning that you would most want to pass on to someone else?

**Sermon Series:** II Samuel: The Kingdom

**Sermon Title:** The Main Thing

**Date:** January 7, 2024

**Intro:** *What is the basis of your relationship with God? Your works or His mercy?*

## **I. U-SHAPED RELIGION**

*"(The performance narrative) is the default human setting, and the default mode of our society: achievement brings reward, and you do what you must to get what you want."  
– Christopher Watkin*

## **II. N-SHAPED GRACE**

*"What we don't do for God is often far more critical than what we, in fact, do."  
– Eugene Peterson*

**Takeaway:** *Lay your deadly-doing down. Then, pick it back up.*



## THE GOSPEL IN

### *Song of Solomon*

The Song of Solomon is a lyrical poem that celebrates marital love. Through beautiful sensory scenes and sensual imagery, it provides us with God's wisdom on sexual intimacy. For those unmarried, the exhortation is to wait until marriage to express and enjoy such intimacy—"I adjure you . . . that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases" (Song 2:7; cf. Song 3:5; 8:4). For those married, it is an admonishment to grow in intimacy—"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song 6:3; cf. Song 2:16; 7:10).

Through the centuries various allegorical interpretations of the Song of Solomon have sought to identify the groom as Christ and the bride as the church (or, the groom as God and the bride as Israel). But we are on safest interpretive ground to recognize that this "poem" of idealized love (probably used in ceremonies related to marriage in Solomon's time), while representing a marriage that God approves, is more a representation of the love he values than an extended metaphor of Christ and his church (or the soul of a believer). As such, this Song tells us what God values: a loving marriage (including its expressions of physical and emotional affection), fidelity to another, protection of another, and the valuing of another—who may even consider herself undeserving of such love. Thus, we gain insight into the loving nature of the God who inspired this Song, and are made able to love him in return although we constantly require his fidelity, protection, and undeserved love.

And yet, because the Song is found in the Bible, we must read it alongside the other Wisdom Literature (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) and in light of the ultimate revelation of wisdom and love—our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is called both "the bridegroom" (John 3:29) and our "one husband" (2 Cor. 11:2). His kingdom and consummation is like "a wedding feast" (Matt. 22:2; cf. Rev. 19:9). Read in light of Jesus, the Song, like all Scripture, makes us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15). That is, it reveals to us something of how the "mystery" of marriage (Eph. 5:32) relates to "the mystery of the gospel" itself (Eph. 6:19). For marriage is itself an institution that displays the gospel of grace (Eph. 5:22–33).

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,  
"The Gospel in Song of Solomon"  
written by Douglas Sean O'Donnell

# Announcements

**15 Year Celebration:** Hard to believe it's already been 15 years as a church family. Whether you were with us on day 1 at Winter Haven High School or if you've just found us recently -- we want you to celebrate with us. Join us **TONIGHT at 5pm at Venue 650** as we celebrate what God has done and continues to do through Redeemer.

**BUILD Resumes:** BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. We'll meet weekly on Wednesday nights for a 4-week stretch between **January 10-31. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm, classes will begin at 6:30pm.**

- 0-3yrs | Childcare
- PreK4-5th Grade | Catechism
- Youth & Adults | Community Bible Reading, A Praying Life, Person of Jesus

**Women's Retreat:** Ladies, registration is now open for our upcoming Women's Retreat **February 23-25, 2024.** Please visit: [redeemerwh.org/retreat](https://redeemerwh.org/retreat) to register. Join us as we "Behold our extraordinary God amidst everyday ordinary life."

**Men's Groups:** Men, there are two opportunities for you to plug in: **Tuesday mornings from 7-8am in the Fellowship Hall** to read the daily Community Bible Reading. And on **Tuesday afternoons from 4-6 pm we'll meet at Grove Roots** for casual drop-in fellowship.

**Women's Bible Study:** Come and join the women of Redeemer as God unveils his best for each of us and the profound mystery of His plan. Discover what the Spirit of God desires to reveal to you through the pages of the book of Hebrews.

You can join us either on **Monday nights (beginning January 15) via Zoom from 6:30-8pm** or **Thursday mornings (beginning January 18) at Redeemer from 9:30-11am.**

**Get Connected:** The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our online newsletter ([redeemerwh.org/newsletter](https://redeemerwh.org/newsletter)) and our mobile app ([redeemerwh.org/app](https://redeemerwh.org/app)).

**Worship Playlists:** Follow our weekly set list on Spotify and Apple Music so that you can become familiar with the songs that we'll be singing on Sundays. You can find the playlist on the "RedeemerWH" app (above) or at: ([redeemerwh.org/worship](https://redeemerwh.org/worship)).

## Our Mission

Our mission is to make Jesus' invisible kingdom visible in Winter Haven, Polk County, and the world.

## Church Planting

One of the ways we hope to accomplish our mission is by planting new churches throughout Polk County. We proudly partner with Renew Polk ([renewpolk.org](https://renewpolk.org)) and the Florida Church Planting Network ([flchurchplanting.org](https://flchurchplanting.org)).

MISSION  
FUND

**2024 GOAL: \$50,000**  
**RECEIVED: \$300**

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