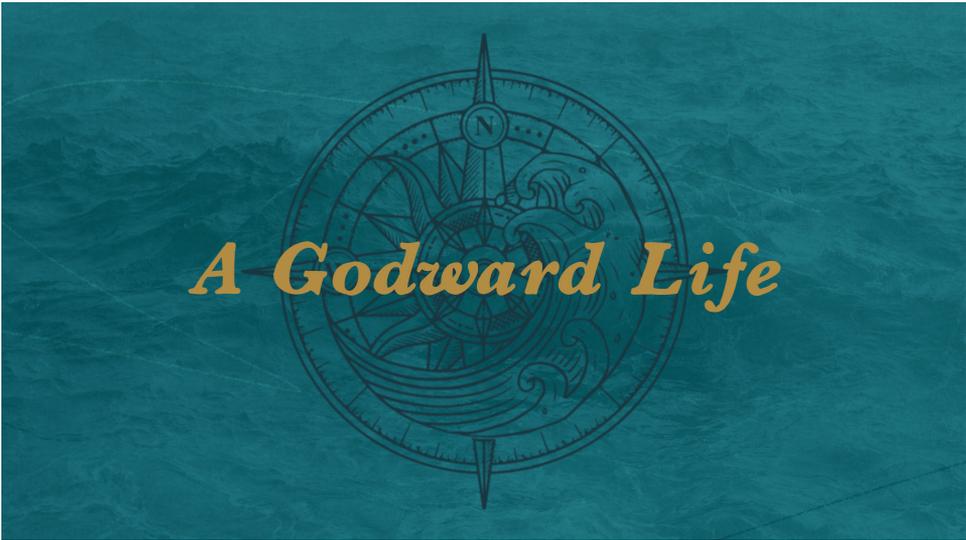




REDEEMER

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.



A Godward Life

July 23, 2023 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Season of the Cross: Green for Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the long season that takes up three quarters of the church year. This portion of Ordinary Time runs between Pentecost and Advent. Ordinary Time has traditionally been devoted to seeking our Lord in the simple, ordinary day-in and day-out rhythms of life. It is a time in which we are all invited to order our lives around Christ's life and teaching.

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:10-12

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

Leader: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion. Herald of good news! Lift up your voice with strength! Say to the cities, "Behold your God!"

Behold, the Lord God comes with might...

ALL: His arm rules for Him.

Leader: Behold, He will tend to his flock like a shepherd...

ALL: He gathers His lambs in His arms. He carries us close to His heart. He gently leads the frail and the forgotten.

Song of Ascent

The first song we sing together guides us as we "go up" or approach the presence of God to worship Him. This song is meant to rouse us to worship and awaken our hearts.

Be Thou My Vision

Reading of the Law: Proverbs 3:5-7, 11-12

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.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil... My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

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).

Song of Repentance

In this song of repentance we acknowledge our sin and our need of a Savior.

Most Merciful God

Assurance of Pardon: John 3:16-17

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

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us
Jesus There's No One Like You

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q26

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

Q: What do you believe when you say: I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and all that is in them, and who still upholds and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence, is, for the sake of Christ His Son, my God and my Father. In Him I trust so completely as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul, and will also turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this life of sorrow. He is able to do so as almighty God, and willing also as a faithful Father.

Receiving New Members

As was the case for believers in the Old and New Testaments, we are called to publicly confess our faith in the grace of God, to participate in the rituals of entrance into the people of God (circumcision in the Old and baptism in the New), and to acknowledge our membership with His people.

Ashley & Bryant Black

Worship Through Giving: Give Online at 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 fifth grade** 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.

Psalm 23

Song of Response & Sending

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

Shepherd

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.

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Pg. 458 (Psalm 23 ESV)

Resources

John Flavel, *The Mystery of Providence*

Philip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*

C.S. Lewis, *The Horse and His Boy*

Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*

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: A Godward Life
Sermon Title: God's Smiling Face
Date: July 23, 2023

Hook: *How aware are you of God's personal and active presence in the details of your life?*

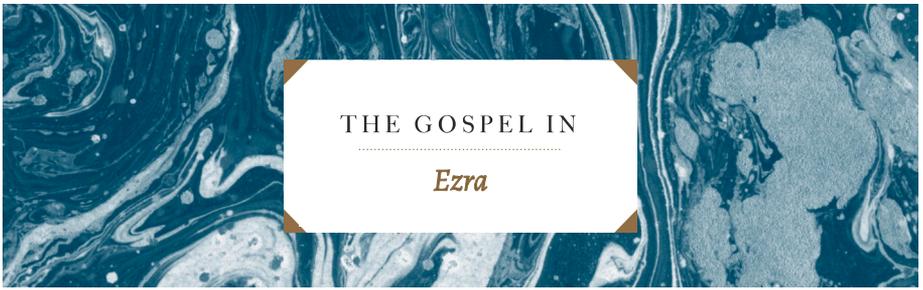
I. TALK TO GOD ABOUT YOUR HEART

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4).

II. TALK TO YOUR HEART ABOUT GOD

"The Lord is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

Takeaway: *Take a break!*



THE GOSPEL IN

Ezra

Ezra and Nehemiah offer the final piece of Old Testament history, one last glimpse of God's people living out his redemptive plan before the coming of the Messiah. God's covenant promises are gloriously on display as this weak, struggling remnant returns to Jerusalem after the exile to live together again as his people, according to his Word.

Ezra in particular highlights God's redemptive plan. The opening verse declares that God initiates these events that he himself decreed through his prophets. God's hand is then evident throughout: sovereignly directing the kings and peoples who aim to have a hand in Zerubbabel's return and rebuilding of the temple, and personally clearing the path for Ezra's later return to teach the law.

God's redemptive plan focuses on a people. Ezra makes clear who these people are: Abraham's seed, those whom God promised to make a great nation in whom all the nations would be blessed. In Ezra, this blessed "remnant" is reassembled and numbered carefully by tribe and genealogy. Ezra's passion to keep them holy and separate reflects not ethnic elitism but rather a concern to honor the Lord who had redeemed them, reflecting his holiness through their own. Ezra thus sought to bring Israel to demonstrate trust in the Lord by obeying his law. This is the blessed way of life given to this chosen people from whom the promised offspring would come, according to God's Word. These exiles did not know Jesus' name, but they carefully traced the seed promises leading to his birth.

God's redemptive plan focuses on a people created to worship him—and the plan provides the means. Hope continues to rise in this book as we see struggling, sinful exiles released in waves from Babylon and rebuilding the temple that identified their land as the place of God's people and promise. Their ancient hope for a messianic King was no longer visible in an earthly kingdom (Zerubbabel remained in the line of David, but as the servant of a foreign king). So, by the efforts of the returning remnant of Israel, amid Jerusalem's ruins, hope emerges more clearly for God's promised King, who would rule on an eternal throne, and who would release his people finally and fully from their oppressors. In the meantime, God had provided the temple as a witness to his continuing presence and promises—a temple whose sacrifices also pictured and pointed ahead to the perfect sacrifice that would be needed for the eternal deliverance of God's people.

This perfect sacrifice and final King would come four centuries after Ezra lived. Jesus gathers up all these ancient longings in his coming to earth. The importance of the temple in Ezra makes us look ahead to the one who is himself the temple, providing access into God's presence through his blood. The plain appearance of Ezra's rebuilt temple (in contrast to Solomon's magnificent one) helps us anticipate the spiritual temple that will rise as Christ's body, the church.

Ultimately, God provided his Word, which Ezra the priest set his heart to study and do and teach. Old Testament history comes to a close with a picture of God's people gathered around God's Word, yearning for the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises—the fulfillment that would come with the Word made flesh.

Announcements

Sending Shower for Aly Savant: There will be a sending shower for Aly Savant on **Saturday, July 29, at the Portlock's (9 Brogden Ct.) from 10am-12pm**. In lieu of gifts, please consider a cash donation that will go towards setting up their kitchen upon arrival in Scotland.

Splash Bash: Join us **Saturday, August 12, from 9:30-11:30am at Lake Eva Water Park in Haines City** for our annual Splash Bash. Come out and help us kick-off the school year. We will be reserving the entire park so please invite friends and neighbors to this event.

Parents' Town Hall: On **Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30pm**, we will have our Fall Parents' Town Hall meeting while the students play slip'n slide kickball. Please plan for at least one parent or guardian to be here.

BUILD Resuming: We're excited to resume BUILD this Fall. BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. More info to come about specific class offerings — we will have classes for all ages. BUILD will run weekly on Wednesday nights for a 4-week stretch between **August 23 and September 13**. **Dinner will begin at 5:30pm, classes will begin at 6:30pm.**

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

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) and the Florida Church Planting Network (flchurchplanting.org).

Community Groups

We also meet during the week in homes for what we call Community Groups. They are intended to be the primary "church" experience for all who are a part of Redeemer. If you are interested in visiting a community group, contact Jonathan Winfree, jonathan@redeemerwinterhaven.org.

MISSION
FUND

GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$14,623

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