



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 CHURCH FOR THE CITY

August 20, 2023 – Twelfth 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: Psalm 46:1-5

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

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

ALL: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

ALL: God is in our midst; we shall not be moved; God will help us when morning dawns.

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: Isaiah 26:1-4

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.

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 13:6, 12-16

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

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"... So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured...

...For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Faithful to the End

Confession of Faith: First Catechism Q58-60

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

Q58. What must you do to be saved?

A: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Q59: How do you repent of your sin?

A: I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.

Q60: Why must you hate and forsake your sin?

A: Because sin displeases God.

Sacrament of Baptism

The ritual of baptism is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the cleansing all people need before they are acceptable to God (sign), and it marks, tangibly to our senses, how real God's promise is for all who will trust in Him (seal).

Knox Warner Ward

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.

Jeremiah 29:4-13

Song of Response & Sending

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

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

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.

4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD. 10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Pg. 656 (Jeremiah 29:4-13 ESV)

Resources

Lee Camp, *Mere Discipleship*

Stanley Hauerwas, *Resident Aliens*

Tim Keller, *Loving the City*

John Piper, *Future Grace*

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 Church: For the City

Sermon Title: A City-Loving Church

Date: August 20, 2023

I. RESIDENT ALIENS

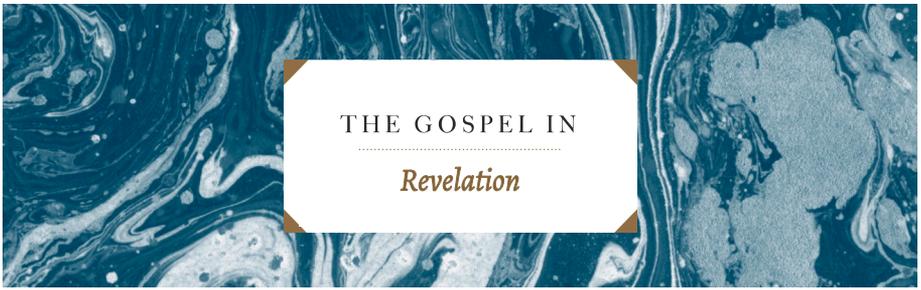
"The church exists today as resident aliens, an adventurous colony in a society of unbelief." – Stanley Hauerwas

II. SHALOM

"The citizens of the city of God are called to be the very best residents of (their particular) city of man." – Tim Keller

III. FUTURE GRACE

"The backward look of gratitude is not designed by God as the primary empowerment of obedience. The future look of faith is." – John Piper



THE GOSPEL IN

Revelation

John has built the unique application of the gospel he provides in Revelation into the very structure of the book.

The opening (Rev. 1:1–8) and closing (Rev. 22:6–21) reveal things as they are and promise that Jesus is coming soon. Then the letters to the seven churches in the world (Rev. 1:9–3:22) are matched by the concluding depiction of the church in glory in the new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1–22:5). In the midst of his tribulation and the struggles of the churches, John is given a throne-room vision that includes Christ conquering and opening the scroll (Rev. 4:1–6:17). This is matched near the end of the book by his vision of Christ returning to conquer, set up his thousand-year kingdom, then open the scrolls for judgment (Rev. 19:11–20:15). John's vision of the sealing of the 144,000 saints and the trumpets that bring plagues (Rev. 7:1–9:21) is paralleled by his vision of the redemption of the 144,000 and the outpouring of the bowls of wrath (Rev. 14:1–19:10). John is attested as a true prophet as he eats the scroll-like Ezekiel (Rev. 10:1–11), and the churches are warned against the deception of the false prophet (Rev. 13:11–18).

The two complementary accounts of Satan's war on the church as it proclaims the gospel (Rev. 11:1–14; 12:1–13:10) frame the centerpiece of the book, in which "the kingdom of the world" becomes "the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ" at the blast of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15–19). This structure proclaims that Christ is Lord, so that though Satan is persecuting the churches and though they are small and beleaguered, they will yet hold fast the word of God and testimony of Jesus, with the expectation that their patient endurance will be rewarded.

Gospel faith makes people right with God and produces gospel faithfulness, which reaps gospel reward. The book of Revelation is a triumphant vision of God's final victory over all the forces of evil in the world. This final victory is secured because of the blood of the Lamb that purifies God's people for his ultimate reign. Revelation is filled with the gracious purposes of God, to strengthen his people.

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,
"The Gospel in Revelation" written by James M. Hamilton Jr

Announcements

BUILD: 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 **August 23 and September 13. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm, classes will begin at 6:30pm.**

- 0-2 yrs | Childcare
- Infants-PreK | Catechism
- K-5th Grade | Catechism
- Youth & Adults | Community Bible Reading, A Praying Life, Person of Jesus

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. It will be worth the journey as you delve into the wonder and majesty of Jesus, the treasure of all treasures waiting to be discovered, embraced, and enjoyed.

You can join us either on **Monday nights (Sep 11 — Nov 6) via Zoom from 6:30-8pm** or **Thursday mornings (Sep 21 — Nov 16) at Redeemer from 9:30-11am.**

Mothers of Toddlers (MOTS): How does a morning meeting with other moms, uninterrupted breakfast, relevant speakers, and just having adult time sound like to you? **Starting September 12th, at 9:15**, pregnant moms thru moms who have a kindergartener are invited to attend this ministry of Redeemer for the community and our members. Babysitting provided. For more information call Debbi Crosby at (863) 604-4091.

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: \$15,298

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