



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.



GALATIANS

KEEP YOURSELF
IN GOD'S LOVE

September 1, 2024 – Fifteenth 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 146

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

Leader: Blessed be he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.

People: He executes justice for the oppressed, He gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free: the Lord opens the eye of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous!

Leader: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O people, to all generations.

People: Praise the Lord!

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.

The Love of Christ

Reading of the Law: John 8:31-32, 34-36

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.

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."...34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Prayer of Adoration and 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: Romans 6:17-18, 20-23

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

17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.... 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death...

...22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Songs 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

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
Only a Holy God

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 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.

Galatians 2:1-10

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.

Humble

Mercy Offering: 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

LifeChoice Pregnancy Center

Song of Response & Sending

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

Living Hope

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 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. 3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. 4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. 6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. 7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Pg. 972 (Galatians 2:1-10 ESV)

Resources

John Calvin, *Sermons on Galatians*

Sinclair Ferguson, *Devoted to God*

John Stott, *Galatians*

Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing about Grace?*

Sermon Series: Galatians: Keep Yourself in God's Love

Sermon Title: The Slavery of Jesus-Plus Christianity

Date: September 1, 2024

Hook: *Our culture says, Follow your heart. Good or bad advice?*

I. GRACE ALONE

"Grace rules out all qualifications by definition." – Sinclair Ferguson

II. JESUS PLUS (ANYTHING)

"Jesus plus nothing equals everything. Jesus plus anything is slavery; and it will kill you." - Tim Keller

III. FREE TO LOVE

"A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything. A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all." - Martin Luther

Takeaway: *You can lose the gospel in two ways: by becoming 1) too relaxed; or 2) too religious.*



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 and closing reveal things as they are and promise that Jesus is coming soon. Then the letters to the seven churches in the world are matched by the concluding depiction of the church in glory in the new heaven and earth. 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. 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. John's vision of the sealing of the 144,000 saints and the trumpets that bring plagues is paralleled by his vision of the redemption of the 144,000 and the outpouring of the bowls of wrath. John is attested as a true prophet as he eats the scroll-like Ezekiel, and the churches are warned against the deception of the false prophet.

The two complementary accounts of Satan's war on the church as it proclaims the gospel 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. 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"

Announcements

Membership Course: Redeemer's membership course is divided into four parts, corresponding to the parts of our theological vision – Gospel, City, Movement – and our membership vows. **The classes will be Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm (Sep 4 through 25) as a part of BUILD.** Sign up online if you are interested in participating. If you are unable to attend every class there will be an opportunity to makeup the missed material. redeemerwh.org/membership

BUILD: BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. We meet weekly on **Wednesday nights September 4 through 25.** **Dinner begins at 5:30pm, classes begin at 6:30pm.**

- 0-3 yrs | Childcare
- Infants-PreK | Catechism
- K-5th Grade | Catechism
- Youth | Youth Group
- Adults | Gospel Tools & Membership Course

Men's Fellowship: The men are gathering **every first Tuesday (beginning September 3) at Bowen Yard from 5-7pm** for a men's fellowship. Drop on by at any time.

Women's Bible Study: Our Women's Bible study is beginning **Thursday, September 5, from 10-11:30am in the Blue Room.** We're going through Vaughan Robert's book *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible.*

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 Ashley Bennett, ashmbennett1013@gmail.com.

MISSION
FUND

2024 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$21,754

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