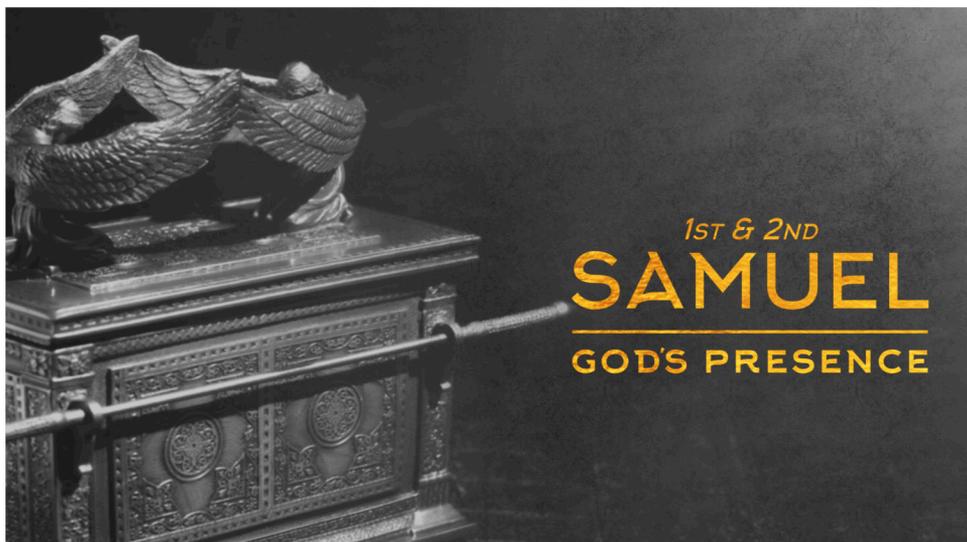




REDEEMER

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.



September 10, 2023 – 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 113:4-8

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

People: The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

Leader: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

People: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

Leader: He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

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.

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Reading of the Law: Isaiah 6:1-3

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 the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

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.

Jesus I Come

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 57:15; John 1:14, 16-18

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 thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite..."

...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

Rising Sun
Christ Be All Around Me

Confession of Faith: First Catechism Q1-5

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

Q1. Who made you?

A: God

Q2: What else did God make?

A: God made all things.

Q3: Why did God make you and all things?

A: For his own glory.

Q4: How can you glorify God?

A: By loving him and doing what he commands.

Q5: Why are you to glorify God?

A: Because he made me and takes care of me.

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.

1 Samuel 4:1-11, 18, 20-22; 5:1-4; 6:1-2, 7-9, 13-14, 19-20

Song of Response & Sending

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

Come Thou Fount

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.

4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. 2 The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. 3 And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." 4 So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. 6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 8 Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. 9 Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight." 10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. 11 And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

Proclamation of God's Word (cont.)

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

18 As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

20 And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or pay attention. 21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

Pg. 228 (1 Samuel 4:1-11, 18, 20-22 ESV)

5:1 When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. 3 And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. 4 But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.

Pg. 228 (1 Samuel 5:1-4 ESV)

6:1 The ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months. 2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us with what we shall send it to its place."

7 Now then, take and prepare a new cart and two milk cows on which there has never come a yoke, and yoke the cows to the cart, but take their calves home, away from them. 8 And take the ark of the LORD and place it on the cart and put in a box at its side the figures of gold, which you are returning to him as a guilt offering. Then send it off and let it go its way 9 and watch. If it goes up on the way to its own land, to Beth-shemesh, then it is he who has done us this great harm, but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us; it happened to us by coincidence."

13 Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. And when they lifted up their eyes and saw the ark, they rejoiced to see it. 14 The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped there. A great stone was there. And they split up the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

19 And he struck some of the men of Beth-shemesh, because they looked upon the ark of the LORD. He struck seventy men of them, and the people mourned because the LORD had struck the people with a great blow. 20 Then the men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up away from us?"

Pg. 229 (1 Samuel 6:1-2, 7-9, 13-14, 19-20 ESV)

Sermon Series: I & II Samuel: God's Presence

Sermon Title: The Ark of God, His Presence

Date: September 10, 2023

I. THE ARK'S PRESENCE

Why was the Ark significant for Israel? What do we learn about God's heart from it?

II. THE ARK'S ABSENCE

The Ark's capture was a symptom of a much deeper problem for Israel. How are we the same?

III. THE ARK'S QUESTION

"Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up away from us?"



THE GOSPEL IN

Job

The core complaint of “Everyman” Job is, “Why do the wicked prosper, and the righteous—like me!—suffer?” The book of Job attempts to help us understand the deficiencies of a worldview simply based upon the “merit,” or value, of good conduct, and the “de-merit,” or negative value, of bad conduct. Job engages in a passionate and persistent complaint, expressed both to God directly and also to his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.

Job is so attached to his “consequentialist” theory of reality, and especially of God’s reality, that it is impossible for him to see an eternal Reality behind his experienced reality of works and consequences. Job’s three friends speak “‘peace, peace,’ when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). They try to refute Job’s complaint against the fairness of God either by defending God’s fairness in the face of an “unfair” reality, or by attempting to discover what bad thing Job has (unconsciously) done that would make Job’s suffering “fair,” or by lecturing Job for even wondering about his circumstances.

Job’s indignant replies to his friends are justified. He accuses them of not taking his questions seriously enough, and rebukes them for not taking his suffering, and therefore human suffering in general, seriously enough. Job speaks rightly, we might say, as far as he goes. He lobbs verbal grenades back at his three accusing friends and appears to beat them at their own game, which is accusation, defense, and counter-accusation.

From a gospel point of view, both Job and his friends argue on the wrong basis. Job accuses God; his friends defend God. But all four of them are viewing God in action-consequence terms. The gospel teaches a different version of God: God loves his own with a love that operates apart from and beyond questions of merit. “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

The gospel insight, which emerges like a supernova in the appearance of Jesus Christ, puts a person’s moral standing before God on the basis of God’s grace alone. Job becomes able, before the book ends, to hear something of this. He hears it first from Elihu, who intervenes in the argumentative deadlock with which the first 31 chapters of Job conclude. According to Elihu, the whole world, the “guilty” as well as the “innocent,” are convicted before the Reality of God. “None is righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10; Ps. 14:3).

After Elihu speaks, for six full chapters without interruption, the Lord comes down! Answering Job “out of the whirlwind” (Job 38:1) and with the evidences of his greatness displayed in creation, the Lord embodies and declares the nature of his Reality, which is beyond what Job has conceived. The Lord concludes by describing at length a most unusual creature he has created—Leviathan. The incomparable majesty and marvel of God’s work stops Job in his tracks. He responds with newfound humility: “Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).

Readers of Job can apply this book as a stunning corrective to ideas about God that conceive of him as operating according to human ideas of fairness and reward—that is, meritorious law. Moreover, God’s nature is revealed to be benign and compassionate rather than malignant and contemptuous. We read at the end of the book that “Job died, an old man, and full of days” (Job 42:17), having seen his sons’ sons, down to four generations. The book of Job helps free us from believing in a “score-keeping” God. We are brought to see the God who is, who is all, and who is love.

Announcements

Get Connected Lunch: Are you new to Redeemer or would you simply like to know more about how to connect to our church? Please join us for our Get Connected Lunch on **September 24 in Covenant Hall following the service.** For food planning & childcare purposes, help us plan by providing a quick RSVP redeemerwh.org/rsvp.

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 **through September 13.** **Dinner begins at 5:30pm, classes begin at 6:30pm.**

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 (Sep 11 — Nov 6) via Zoom from 6:30-8pm** or **Thursday mornings (Sep 14 — 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: \$15,718

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