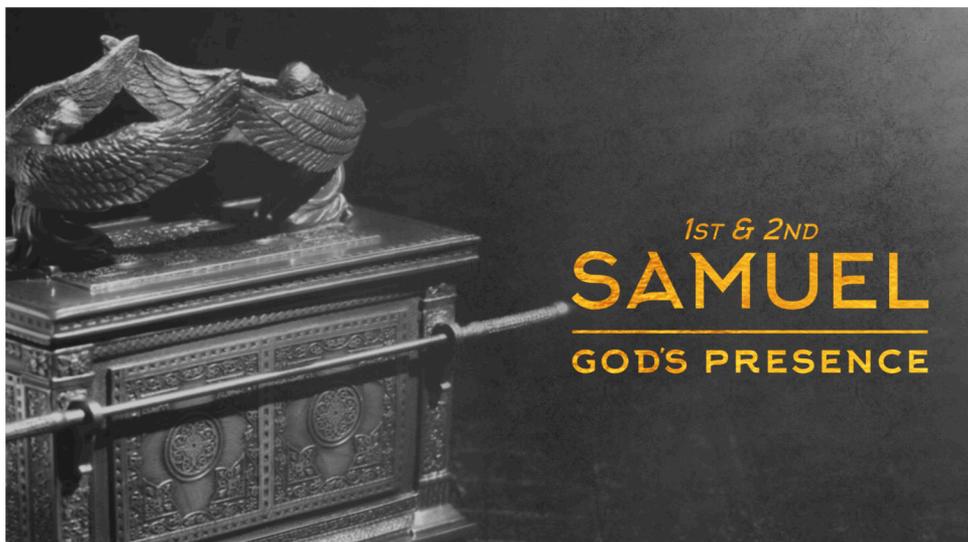




REDEEMER

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.



1ST & 2ND
SAMUEL
GOD'S PRESENCE

September 17, 2023 – Sixteenth 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 33:16-20

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

Leader: The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love...

People: Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

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.

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Reading of the Law: Psalm 20

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.

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans! May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions! Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

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.

Reign In Us

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

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

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way...

...This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

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

Lion and the Lamb
Ancient of Days

Confession of Faith: First Catechism Q6-10

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

Q6: Is there more than one true God?

A: No. There is only one true God.

Q7: In how many Persons does this one God exist?

A: In three Persons.

Q8: Name these three Persons.

A: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Q9: What is God?

A: God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.

Q10: Where is God?

A: God is everywhere.

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 8:1-22; 9:1-2; 10:17-19, 24

Song of Response & Sending

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

Is He Worthy?

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.

8:1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. 9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. 11 He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants."

Proclamation of God's Word (cont.)

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

15 He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." 21 And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

Pg. 230 (1 Samuel 8:1-22 ESV)

9:1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. 2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

Pg. 231 (1 Samuel 9:1-2 ESV)

10:17 Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. 18 And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' 19 But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands."

24 And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

Pg. 232 (1 Samuel 10:17-19, 24 ESV)

Resources

Robert Alter, *The David Story*

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel*

Daniel K. Williams, *"What Really Happens When Americans Stop Going to Church"*

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

Sermon Title: Political Idolatry

Date: September 17, 2023

Hook: *What is the spiritual cause of political polarization?*

I. NO KING

"It is not government, but trust in government that is the villain." – Dale Ralph Davis

II. THE FIRST KING

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'" – C.S. Lewis

III. THE TRUE KING

"The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Takeaway: *Is He worthy?... He is!*



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

Person of Jesus: We're excited to begin a weekly POJ study on **Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm (Sep 20 thru Nov 15)** childcare provided.

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.

Women's Brunch: Ladies, join us for brunch **THIS Saturday, September 23 from 10am-12pm at Redeemer.** It will be a wonderful time of fellowship, friendship, & of course, delicious food. Vicky will share some thoughts on Women's Ministry and the beauty of living in gospel friendships. Bring a friend and your favorite brunch item.

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 course will take place **on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm (dates TBD).** Visit redeemerwh.org/rsvp if you are interested in participating. If you are unable to attend every class there will be an opportunity to make up the missed material. Childcare will be provided.

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.**

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: \$16,018

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