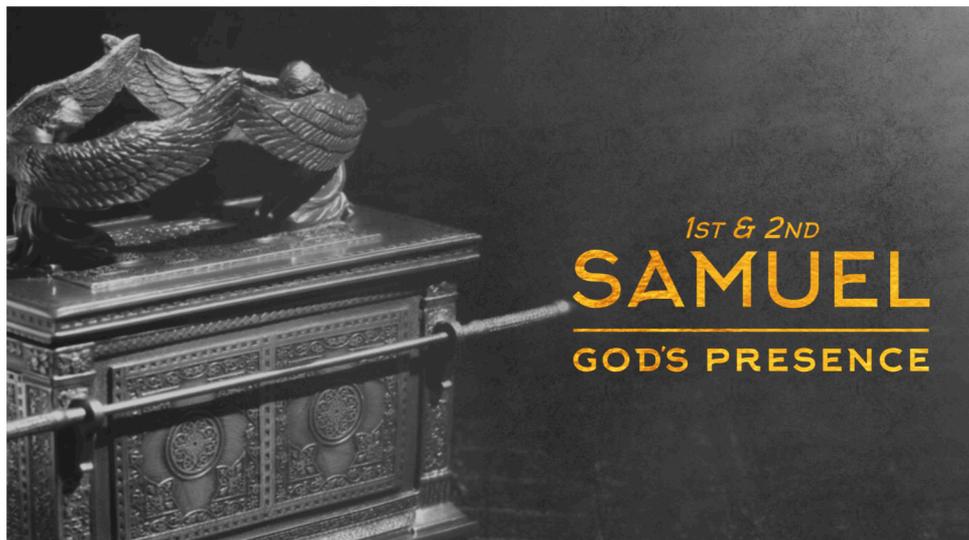




# REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN



1ST & 2ND

## SAMUEL

GOD'S PRESENCE

October 22, 2023 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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### **Call to Worship:** Psalm 95

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

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

**People: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker.

**People: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

## 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.*

Satisfied

## Reading of the Law: Ephesians 6:10-18

*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.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

## 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 King of Love

## Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 43:1-5

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

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.

## 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*

Isaiah 43 (Do Not Fear)  
O Church Arise

## Confession of Faith: First Catechism Q70-72

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

Q70: How is Christ your prophet?

**A: Christ teaches me the will of God.**

Q71: How is Christ your priest?

**A: Christ died for my sins and continues to pray for me.**

Q72: How is Christ your king?

**A: Christ rules over me, the world and Satan, and he defends me.**

## Worship Through Giving: Give Online at [redeemerwh.org/give](https://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 17:1-11, 32-37, 40-52

## Song of Response & Sending

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

My Savior Left His Throne Above

## **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 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. 4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

## Proclamation of God's Word (cont.)

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

40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. 41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. 42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

Pg. 235 (1 Samuel 17:1-11, 32-37, 40-52 ESV)

## Resources

Mark Boda, *After God's Own Heart*

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel*

Tim Keller, *"The Hero of Heroes"* sermon

Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over the Wall*

## 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:** I & II Samuel: God's Presence

**Sermon Title:** A God-Dominated Imagination

**Date:** October 22, 2023

**Intro:** *Have you ever considered how your fear and cowardice damage God's reputation?*

## **I. THE FAITHLESS KING**

*"Saul, the king after Israel's heart, the king whose physical stature qualified him to lead Israel into battle, cowered before (Goliath). – Mark Boda*

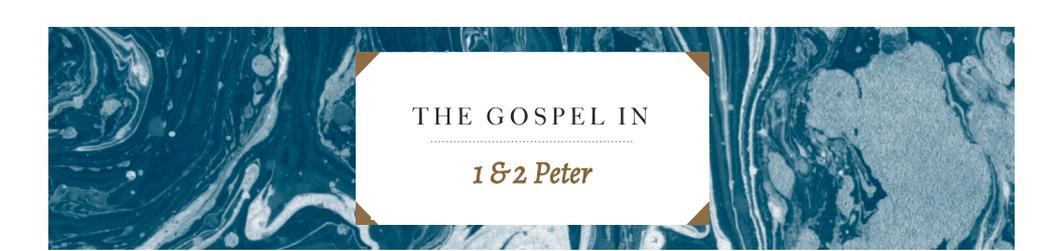
## **II. THE KINGLY UPSTART**

*"In this scene, we find ourselves faced with acquiring a God-dominated imagination and rejecting a Goliath-dominated imagination." – Eugene Peterson*

## **III. THE TRUE CHAMPION**

*"Jesus is the true and better David, whose victory becomes the people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves." – Tim Keller*

**Takeaway:** *You are David!*



## THE GOSPEL IN

### *1 & 2 Peter*

Hardship and holiness: these are the twin themes of Peter's first epistle, written to a church composed of Gentile converts from licentious hedonism on the one hand and Jewish converts with Old Testament traditions on the other hand. Together they experienced an alien and exile status in a hostile world. Persecution against and oppression of the church of Jesus Christ had already begun, and Peter writes to encourage this "mixed bag" of believers with dear but easily forgotten truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Peter provides this encouragement through a combination of proclamation and exhortation, and curiously, one of the proclamations is that suffering is inevitable for followers of Jesus. Such brutal facts may be difficult to take initially. But as trials come, the understanding that such suffering can be the mark and measure of faithfulness helps these early Christians to see that affliction is one more means of Christlikeness and, indeed, one more avenue of true joy.

Peter's words on holiness and hardship are inextricably connected. Because of the way the Spirit conforms us to the image of Christ, Peter not only sees holiness as necessary for enduring hardship; he sees hardship as a way the Spirit makes us holy.

In his first letter, the apostle Peter writes largely about the relationship between holiness and hardship. In his second letter, he writes about the relationship between holiness and heresy—a "hardship" in its own right in the early church as well as in the church today. Similar to Paul in his letter to the Galatians, or Jude (who likely used 2 Peter as a reference point), Peter provides an abundant and unequivocal warning to believers about those who will infiltrate the church and teach seductive blasphemy. He cautions that some will even use the words of Scripture to support their perverted doctrines and lives.

Peter urges resistance to such distortions of grace. He reminds us about the importance of accurate knowledge of the truth. And he shows us once more, as throughout the New Testament, that the faithfulness needed to combat such wickedness requires: an experience of God's powerful grace in the gospel; a diligence in repentant living; a sober-minded awareness of and resistance to heresy; and a hopeful expectation of God's patience and faithfulness.

Peter is gracious to apply these truths generally at first, and then gradually more specifically to the practical challenges of everyday life. The connection between hardship and holiness is applicable for Christian citizenship, Christian families, and Christian churches.

From Peter's instructions, believers in Jesus are trained in seeing the role and even the value of suffering. Christians learn that hardship is not outside God's sovereign will and is used by God to fashion us according to Christ's image. Authentic holiness in this adversity-filled life is possible through the power of the Spirit in the gospel, and indeed it is this very adversity that trains us for godliness. Through it all, however, we remember that the hardships of the world are temporary blips on the radar of the joyful life of eternal glory that begins when our flesh gives way and we go to be with the Lord. And one day, Christ will return to avenge our persecution and vindicate our suffering.

## Announcements

**Person of Jesus:** Join us for POJ on **Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm (thru Nov 15)** childcare provided. This is a time to slow down and look at the way Jesus loved. Seeing the pattern - and power - that he has given us to love in the same way.

**Women's Retreat:** Ladies, registration is now open our upcoming Women's Retreat **February 23-25, 2024**. Please visit: [redeemerwh.org/retreat](https://redeemerwh.org/retreat) to register. Join us as we "Behold our extraordinary God amidst everyday ordinary life."

**Renew Polk Worship:** On **Sunday October 29**, Renew Polk will be hosting a combined worship gathering **at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 5pm**. This evening is an opportunity to hear updates on how God is moving in and through church plants here in Polk County while also praying for the gospel to continue to bear fruit in our area. The guest speaker will be Mission to North America coordinator Irwyn Ince. We hope to see you there!

**Men's Hangout:** Join the men of Redeemer for a fall Saturday evening at Charlie Reynolds' (**2045 W. Lake Hamilton Dr**) **November 4, from 5-8pm**. We'll have drinks and some eats but bring your favorite BBQ dish (optional) for a competition judged by Austin Snively. Winner gets to judge next year. We'll have a bonfire and the college football games on TV. Invite your friends.

**Men's Groups:** Men, there are two opportunities for you to plug in: **Tuesday mornings from 7-8am in the Fellowship Hall** to read the daily Community Bible Reading. And on **Tuesday afternoons from 4-6 pm we'll meet at Grove Roots** for casual drop-in fellowship.

**Get Connected:** The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our online newsletter ([redeemerwh.org/newsletter](https://redeemerwh.org/newsletter)) and our mobile app ([redeemerwh.org/app](https://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](https://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](https://renewpolk.org)) and the Florida Church Planting Network ([fchurchplanting.org](https://fchurchplanting.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](mailto:jonathan@redeemerwinterhaven.org).

MISSION  
FUND

**GOAL: \$50,000**  
**RECEIVED: \$16,848**

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