



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

October 27, 2024 – Twenty-third 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

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

Leader: Praise the Lord! ... Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore."

People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, we praise the name of the Lord.

Leader: The Lord is high above all nations, his glory is above the heavens.

People: Who is like, You, Lord God, seated on high, looking far down on the heavens and the earth.

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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Reading of the Law: Matthew 11:28-30

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.

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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).

Song of Repentance

In this song of repentance we acknowledge our sin and our need of a Savior.

I Need Thee Every Hour

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:1-5

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

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

...2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go
Child of the King

Receiving New Members

As was the case for believers in the Old and New Testaments, we are called to publicly confess our faith in the grace of God, to participate in the rituals of entrance into the people of God (circumcision in the Old and baptism in the New), and to acknowledge our membership with His people.

Cameron Donley, Caroline Donley, Tate Donley

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.

Galatians 4:21-5:1

Song of Response & Sending

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

Christ is Mine Forevermore

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.

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

27 For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Pg. 974 (Galatians 4:21-5:1ESV)

Resources

Tim Keller, ***Galatians For You***

Eugene Peterson, ***Traveling Light***

Charles Spurgeon, ***"The Allegories of Sarah and Hagar" sermon***

John Stott, ***The Message of Galatians***

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

Sermon Title: Children of the Free Woman

Date: October 27, 2024

Hook: *Does life feel heavy or light?*

I. TWO WOMEN - Hagar and Sarah

"Anyone who can judge rightly between the law and the Gospel should thank God and know that he is a true theologian." – Martin Luther

II. TWO SONS - Ishmael and Isaac

"We are all born legalists." - Charles Spurgeon

III. TWO SPIRITUAL IMPULSES - Slavery and Freedom

"To obey Love himself, who above all else wishes us well, leaves us the freedom to be the best and gladdest that we have it in us to become. The only freedom Love denies us is the freedom to destroy ourselves." - Frederich Buechner

Takeaway: *Expect sibling rivalry.*



THE GOSPEL IN

Jonah

Delayed Obedience

On the surface, the story of Jonah lends itself to a moralistic interpretation: God sends Jonah to the notoriously evil city of Nineveh (Jonah 1:1–2), but Jonah runs away instead (Jonah 1:3). So God sends a storm and a fish to rescue Jonah from his disobedience (Jonah 2), he tells Jonah to go a second time (Jonah 3:1–2), and finally Jonah gives in and obeys (Jonah 3:3). Then God rewards Jonah's obedience by bringing him surprising success among the Ninevites (Jonah 3:6–10).

But this interpretation leaves us with a number of problematic questions: Why is chapter 4 included? Why isn't our hero, Jonah, a better model of obedience in the end? Why is he still angry after his success in Nineveh? Once we begin to pull back the layers of the story, we discover that it is not really about what Jonah is doing for God, but what God is doing for Jonah.

What Weakness Teaches

Jonah is about the disturbing possibility that, having pledged our life to God, we could end up spending much of that life avoiding the God we set out to serve. You may have already discovered this strange contradiction that lies at the heart of all Christian experience: while loving Christ, you find yourself turning from him; while trusting Christ, you often battle fear and anxiety; while serving Christ, you sometimes struggle with disappointment about certain events in your life. You are not alone!

Some people teach us by their example; Jonah teaches us by his weakness. By confessing his own failures, Jonah holds up a mirror for us to see the struggles and enigmas of our Christian lives (1 Cor. 10:11). He wants us to discover the grace of God—which, once we see it, is stronger than all our fears, anxieties, and disappointments. The real hero in the story is God. We catch glimpses of God's extraordinary patience with weak people like Jonah (Jonah 3:1–2; 4:4, 9–10), his relentless pursuit of lost people like the Ninevites (Jonah 1:2; 4:11), and the ultimate victory of his love (Jonah 2:9; 3:10).

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,
"The Gospel in Jonah"

Announcements

Renew Polk Worship Service: On **Sunday, October 27**, Renew Polk will be hosting a combined worship gathering at **The King's Church (730 S Florida Ave) at 5:30pm**. 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. Consider making this a Community Group outing.

Fall Fest: Our Fall Fest & Chili Cook Off is **Saturday, November 16 at 4pm in the Twelve Oaks Neighborhood (879 Twin Oaks Ln)**. We'll have inflatables and a hayride for the kids; and of course, a bunch of chili!! So get your recipes ready and invite some friends!

Person of Jesus Study: Join us for the Person of Jesus study on **Thursdays from 12-1pm (through November 21)** in Covenant Hall. Lunch & Childcare will be provided. This is a co-ed study open to anyone.

Women's Bible Study: Our Women's Bible study has resumed on **Thursdays 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: \$29,811

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