



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

November 3, 2024 – Twenty-fourth 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 138

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

Leader: I give thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart

People: We give thanks to Your Name - for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

Leader: The Lord will fulfill his purposes for me;

People: Your steadfast love endures forever.

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: 1 Peter 2:16-17

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.

16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

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: John 8:31-36

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

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." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become 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.

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

Great Things
Abide

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 5:1-14

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.

I Am Set Free

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 God.

Wright Busching, University Presbyterian Church Tampa
Florida Church Planting Network

Song of Response & Sending

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

There is One Gospel

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

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Pg. 974 (Galatians 5:1-14 ESV)

Resources

Tim Keller, *Galatians For You*

Eugene Peterson, *Traveling Light*

James K.A. Smith, *On the Road with St Augustine*

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

Sermon Title: Freedom!

Date: November 3, 2024

Hook: *When you hear the word freedom, what are the synonyms that immediately come to mind?*

I. FREEDOM

"The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion." – Albert Camus

II. FREEDOM OF FAITH

"Once you've realized you need someone not you, you also look at constraint differently. What used to look like walls hemming you in start to look like scaffolding holding you together." – James K.A. Smith

III. FREEDOM TO LOVE

"The gospel frees us from the law, for the law." – Tim Keller

Takeaway: *Freedom takes practice. We **do** to **be**.*



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

Fall Fest: Our Fall Fest & Chili Cook Off is **Saturday, November 16 at 3pm 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! redeemerwh.org/chili

9 & Dine: Guys, join us on **Friday, November 22 for a 9 & Dine at the Country Club of Winter Haven**. A 9 hole scramble will begin at 2:30pm with dinner to follow at 5:30pm. The green fee is \$53. There is no cost for dinner — you can also opt to join for dinner only. The deadline to sign up is November 15. redeemerwh.org/golf

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.

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

redeemerwinterhaven.org | (863) 298-9849
Mobile App: redeemerwh.org/app | facebook.com/redeemerwh