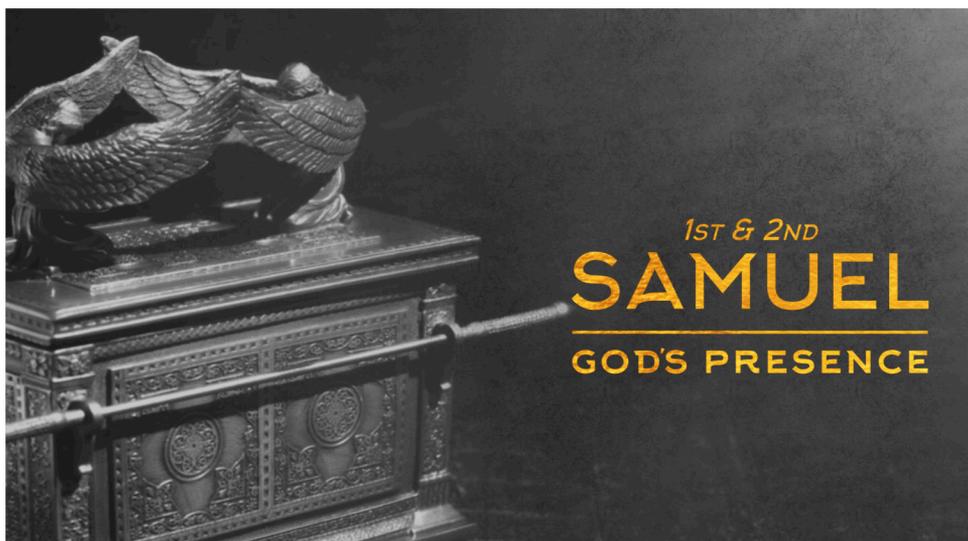




REDEEMER

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.



November 5, 2023 – 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 103

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

Leader: The Lord is gracious

People: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love

Leader: He does not treat us as our sins deserve

People: He does not repay us according to our iniquities

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

People: As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: Bless the Lord, you who are His. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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.

Bless the Lord O My Soul (Psalm 103)

Reading of the Law: Romans 12:17-21

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.

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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).

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:6-11

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 while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God...

...For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

It Was Finished Upon that Cross
Reckless Love

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.

1 Samuel 18:6-12; 24:1-22

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.

Song of Response & Sending

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

His Mercy Is More

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.

6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on.

10 The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. 11 And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. 12 Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.

Pg. 241 (1 Samuel 18:6-12 ESV)

1 When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. 3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

Proclamation of God's Word

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

5 And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6 He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed." 7 So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

8 Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. 9 And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? 10 Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' 11 See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. 12 May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. 13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. 14 After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! 15 May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

16 As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. 18 And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. 19 For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. 20 And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. 21 Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." 22 And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Pg. 246 (1 Samuel 24:1-22 ESV)

Resources

Lee Camp, *Mere Discipleship*

Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel*

Paul Miller, *Love Walked Among Us*

Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over the Wall*

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

Sermon Title: Loving an On-Again/Off-Again Enemy

Date: November 5, 2023

Intro: *Do you have anybody in your life that you would describe as an enemy? How does your faith shape the way you relate to them?*

I. THE SOUL-DESTROYING SIN

"Envy is pain caused by the good fortune of others." - Aristotle

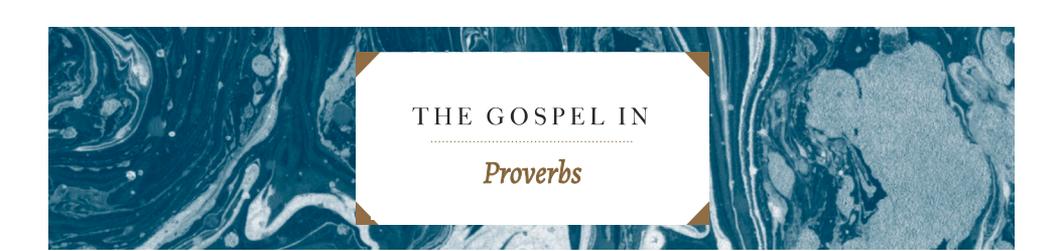
II. A COAL-HEAPING LOVE

"I only love God as much as I love the person I love the least." - Dorothy Day

III. AN ENEMY-LOVING GOD

"Forgiveness flounders when we exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as we exclude ourselves from the community of sinners." - Miraslov Volf

Takeaway: *The kingdom comes when the lion and the lamb lay down together!*



THE GOSPEL IN

Proverbs

The book of Proverbs is one of the “many ways” God spoke, leading us to his only Son Jesus. What stands out about the book of Proverbs is its gracious offer of divine wisdom for foolish and weak people.

The book of Proverbs is an outpouring of grace from God. Again and again, the author appeals to the reader as his dear “son”. This book breathes with the Spirit of adoption. We may therefore study Proverbs not to earn a sonship still out of reach but to bear witness to a sonship already given.

The rest of the Bible makes clear that Jesus is the one who perfectly embodies this unique wisdom. According to the Old Testament, the Messiah would be anointed with “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord”. According to the New Testament, Jesus is God’s gift of wisdom to sinners. Solomon was a genius, but Jesus was greater than Solomon. He amazed people with his wisdom. To this day, he counsels his church through his Word. The wisdom of Jesus can be hard to accept, since it led not to popularity but to a cross. But if we will humbly receive the divine wisdom hidden in Christ, the book of Proverbs will open up as a powerful word from our Wonderful Counselor.

Through the book of Proverbs God our Father guides his children into practical sanctification. But the book offers far more than handy tips. Proverbs provides profound wisdom given by God for our complex decisions. Thus, its wisdom is a provision of grace, enabling us to navigate the problems and perils of life with a fatherly guidance we have not earned nor can provide by our own devices. Because this wisdom is “from above”, we will have to rethink our lives with humble reverence before God. We will even have to “call out for insight,” seeking it like silver and searching for it as for hidden treasures. But we have the privilege of asking a willing God who delights to provide what we need, helping us to understand that the sanctification taught in this book is a gift of God that will ultimately be understood as having been won for us already by Jesus . Through his Spirit, Jesus shares it freely with the undeserving. Thus, we can pursue his wisdom with every expectation of gaining it as our own.

The way to read the book of Proverbs is to slow down and prayerfully think it through, one proverb at a time. Consider what each instruction reveals of God’s nature by what he values and instructs. Then consider what each proverb reveals about human frailty and need by the instruction we require. Such careful reflection will reveal much about the grace humanity requires, which God will ultimately provide in Christ. Reading this unusual book is more like savoring a piece of hard candy than gulping down a mouthful of fast food. But to those who accept the way God has chosen to speak here, he makes this priceless promise: “Wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul”.

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,
"The Gospel in Proverbs" written by Ray Ortlund

Announcements

Fall Fest: Our Fall Fest & Chili Cook Off is **THIS Saturday, November 11 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! To sign up for food, please visit: redeemerwh.org/chili

Thanksgiving Service: Our annual Thanksgiving Service will be **Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30pm**. This is a brief service where we give thanks to God for who He is and all that He has done. Childcare will be available through Pre-K.

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 for our upcoming Women's Retreat **February 23-25, 2024**. Please visit: redeemerwh.org/retreat to register. Join us as we "Behold our extraordinary God amidst everyday ordinary life."

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) 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: \$17,268

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