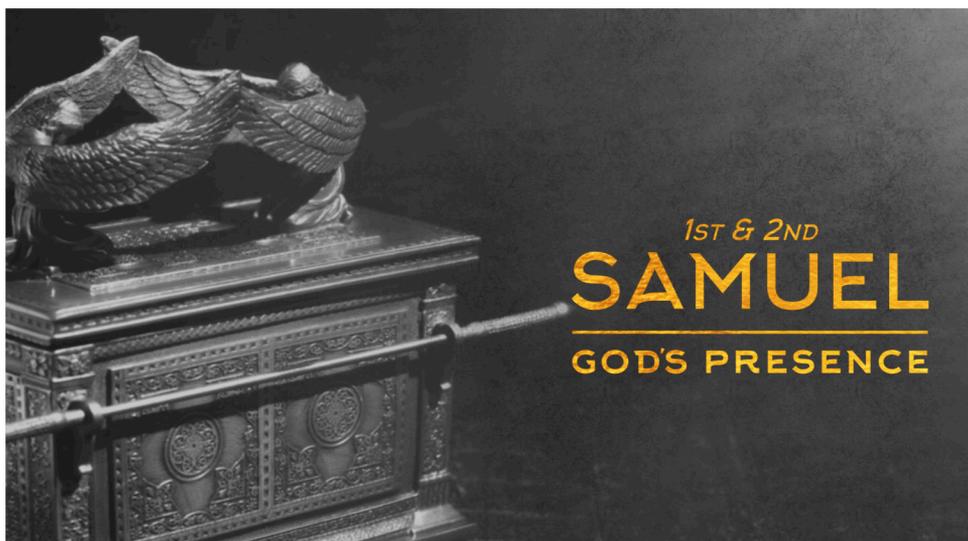




# REDEEMER

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 12, 2023 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

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## **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 98

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

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**People: The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, 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.*

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

## Reading of the Law: Matthew 5:43-48

*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.*

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

## 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

*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.*

Lord from Sorrows Deep I Call

## **Assurance of Pardon:** Lamentations 3:19-24

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

Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

## **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*

Forever  
O Come to the Altar

## **Confession of Faith:** First Catechism 113-117

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

Q113: How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer?

**A: Six.**

Q114: What is the first petition?

**A: The first petition is "Hallowed be thy name."**

Q115: What does it mean to pray, "Hallowed be thy name"?

**A: We are asking God to help us and others to respect and honor him.**

Q116: What is the second petition?

**A: The second petition is "Thy kingdom come."**

Q117: What does it mean to pray, "Thy kingdom come"?

**A: We are asking God to bring more and more people to hear, believe and obey his gospel.**

## **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.*

Tabitha & Wyatt Keith (*communing*)  
Boone & Bodhi Keith (*non-communing*)

## Sacrament of Baptism

*The ritual of baptism is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the cleansing all people need before they are acceptable to God (sign), and it marks, tangibly to our senses, how real God's promise is for all who will trust in Him (seal).*

Boone Micah Keith  
Bodhi Rae Keith

## 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.*

Psalm 57

## Song of Response & Sending

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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

## 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 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. 3 He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness! 4 My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!

6 They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.

7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! 8 Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Pg. 477 (Psalm 57 ESV)

## Resources

David O Taylor, *Open and Unafraid*

Tim Keller, *The Songs of Jesus*

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:** Faithing In The Wilderness, Facing Enemies

**Date:** November 5, 2023

**Intro:** *How do you typically manage yourself when life is overwhelming?*

## **I. ON THE RUN**

*The need for faith in the wilderness*

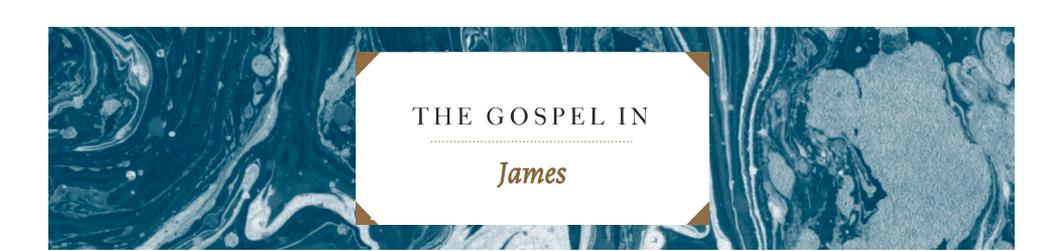
## **II. IN THE CAVE**

*The place of faith in the midst of lions*

## **III. AT THE CROSS**

*The source of faith in the crises of life*

**Takeaway:** *Make the songs of David and Jesus your own!*



## THE GOSPEL IN

### *James*

James is a beloved epistle, eminently practical and full of vivid exhortations to godly living. The author presents profound counsel on numerous essentials: trials, poverty, riches, justice, speech, worldliness, and prayer. His clarity and prophetic urgency call readers to action, but his assessment of our failures is almost too penetrating, as it exposes our inability to perform what he commands—driving us to the ever-present refuge of the gospel. Yet at the same time James stirs us to action, to the obedience that is a hallmark not of bare external conformity but of living faith: “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only”.

Since James demands what readers cannot render, we struggle to resolve the tension between those demands and our inability to attain them. We might expect James to discuss justification here, but he never mentions that or the cross, resurrection, or atonement. Indeed, the absence of these elements has prompted some to doubt the canonicity of James. Further, while he uses Jesus’ name twice, both are passing references, not expositions of his life and saving work. With 59 commands in 108 verses, James declares King Jesus’ royal law. He insists that obedience is a prime mark of true religion: “Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it”. The hasty reader could therefore miss the gospel in James. If James merely commands, his clarity is a burden and his commands ultimately condemn.

We will begin to understand the gospel intentions of the book by noting that James 1:26–27 structures the book when he declares that “anyone [who] thinks he is religious” will show it in three ways. He will “bridle his tongue,” watch over “orphans and widows in their affliction,” and keep himself “unstained” by the world. Remarkably, James next demonstrates that everyone fails to meet these standards. We must control the tongue, yet no one can tame the tongue. We must care for the needy—orphans and widows—yet we’re willing to wish them well and do nothing. We must avoid the pollution of the world, yet our envy and quarrels prove our worldliness.

If no one has true religion, then all are liable to judgment. Still, James says “mercy triumphs over judgment”. The climax of the epistle, James 4:6, explains how mercy triumphs. No one controls the tongue, cares for the needy, or stays unstained, but God “gives more grace. Therefore it says ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Here “it” means all Scripture, which attests to God’s grace for the humble. James reinforces the lesson in James 4:10, commanding, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” That is the gospel according to James: No one is obedient, no one consistently demonstrates true religion. Therefore, the Father who gives good gifts gives the supreme gift of saving grace to the humble.

Further, the wisdom to understand such grace is from above, as God grants needed understanding generously and without reproach to whomever asks. We therefore understand that, though none can meet God’s requirements, he grants the wisdom needed to navigate this world and the next to all who simply have faith to ask his aid—this is undeniable grace.

## Announcements

**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](https://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](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 ([flchurchplanting.org](https://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](mailto:jonathan@redeemerwinterhaven.org).

MISSION  
FUND

**GOAL:** \$50,000  
**RECEIVED:** \$17,268

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