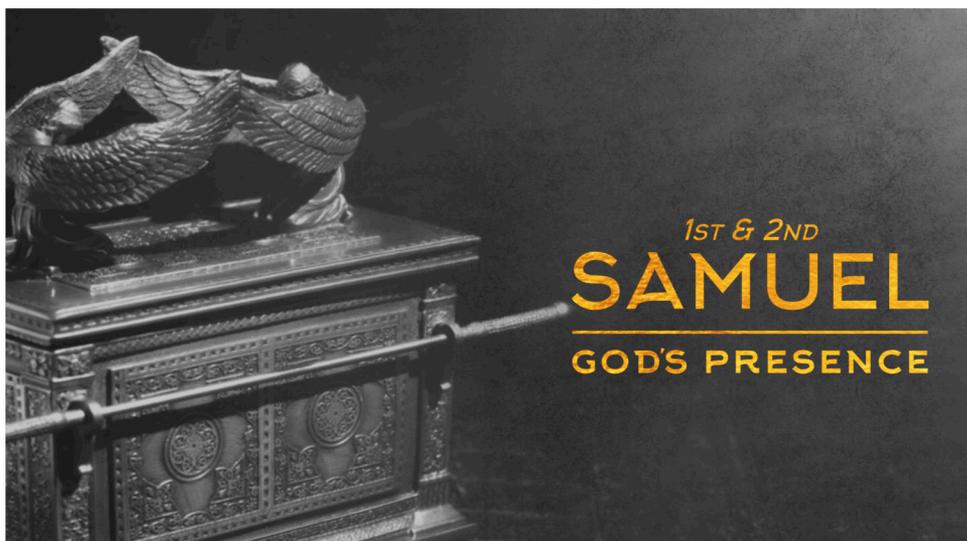




REDEEMER

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 19, 2023 – Twenty-fifth 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: Zephaniah 3:14-17

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

Leader: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

People: The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

Leader: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

People: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Song of Ascent

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (Psalm 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, bodies, for worship by singing about the God we serve.

All Creatures of Our God and King

Reading of the Law: Joshua 24:14-15

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.

"Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

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.

Lord from Sorrows Deep I Call

Assurance of Pardon: Revelation 21:1-5

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

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

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

Lion and the Lamb
Great Are You Lord

Confession of Faith: First Catechism 115, 117, 119

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

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.

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.

Q119: What does it mean to pray, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"?

A: We are asking God to make us able and willing to serve him on earth just as he is served in heaven.

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.

2 Samuel 2:1-4, 8-9; 3:1, 36-37; 5:1-7, 9-10, 12

Song of Response & Sending

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

Ancient of Days

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 After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah... 8 But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, 9 and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel.

Pg. 255 (2 Samuel 2:1-4, 8-9 ESV)

1 There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker... 36 And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner.

Pg. 256 (2 Samuel 3:1, 36-37 ESV)

1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. 6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"-thinking, "David cannot come in here." 7 Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David... 9 And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. 10 And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him... 12 And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

Pg. 257 (2 Samuel 5:1-7, 9-10, 12 ESV)

Resources

2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity, Dale Ralph Davis

A Tale of Three Kings, Gene Edwards

The City of God, Augustine

An Old Testament Theology, Bruce Waltke

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

Sermon Title: A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Date: November 19, 2023

I. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"Do not let the unpromising form of the Kingdom blind you to the real presence of the Kingdom." - Dale Ralph Davis

II. THE KINGDOM OF MAN

The Kingdom of God is rarely received well by men. We set up rival kingdoms to oppose God's reign.

III. THE KING WHO BRINGS THE KINGDOM

"There is a vast difference between the outward clothing of the Spirit's power and the inward filling of the Spirit's life." - Gene Edwards



The Gospel in Matthew

Matthew's Gospel is focused on explaining what the gospel is and how it should be applied in the lives of Jesus' disciples. For Matthew, the gospel is the good news that God has inaugurated the final stage of his plan to reclaim the world from the destruction of sin and establish his just and merciful reign over it. God has given the central role in this final stage of his work to Jesus, his long-awaited and specially designated King. Where Jesus is present in Matthew's Gospel, God and his kingdom are present. The reign of God is evident when Jesus banishes demons; heals the sick, the lame, and the blind; and gathers together a group of people whose lives are to demonstrate God's just and merciful character.

All this is cause for celebration to those who know they need deliverance from sin—to the poor in spirit, the grieving, those who long to see justice done, those who know they need forgiveness for their sins, and those laboring under the burden of religious rule-keeping. When Jesus, like his predecessor John the Baptist, preaches the need to turn from sin and follow Jesus in light of God's coming kingdom, these people embrace this message of deliverance without hesitating and with joy.

Matthew also paints a sobering picture of those who reject Jesus and his message. Surprisingly, Jesus' most energetic opponents are religious leaders who value so highly the recognition that comes from their positions of leadership and their clever interpretations of Scripture that they have become blind to its more basic principles. They would rather talk about the fine points of blasphemy, Sabbath, and tithing law than show compassion to the needy. They would rather find subtle ways around the fundamental principles of God's law, such as honoring parents, than make the sacrifices necessary for keeping it. This radical contrast between the evil that is in their hearts and their outward piety and concern for God's law shows that they are moving toward eternal destruction.

Even more disturbing, however, is Matthew's portrait of those who claim to be followers of Jesus but whose claims will be found empty on the day of judgment. Like Jesus' real disciples they will have done much in his name, but Jesus will order them to depart from him because they were lawless and because they neglected his disciples who needed food, clothing, medical attention, and support while in prison.

This does not mean that Matthew sees good works as the basis for entering God's kingdom. Instead, the condition of the heart will determine who enters God's kingdom on the day of judgment, and one's deeds will be the outward manifestation of that condition. The healthy tree bears good fruit and the diseased tree bears bad fruit. The condition of the heart defiles a person, says Jesus, and the heart's condition is revealed in the evil thoughts, words, and actions that come out of it. This is why Jesus can say that, on the day of judgment, people will be either justified or condemned by their words: these words reveal their heart condition.

How can one's heart be in the right condition? Those for whom following Jesus is more important than anything else in life can be sure they are on the road to eternal life. This is what Jesus means when he insists on perfection from his disciples. They certainly are not capable of being morally perfect in this life. Indeed, Jesus has deep compassion for sinners who need his forgiveness. He demonstrates this in the restoration of his disciples after their miserable failure during his arrest and execution. As a consequence, Jesus' disciples become perfect in the sense that their desires and affections belong to him. They recognize that they must entirely depend upon him to provide what they most need—him. Like the merchant in the parable, they have found the one person who gives value to life, and they have put everything they have at his disposal. Certainly they will fail, but, unlike Judas, recognition of their failure will send them to Jesus, who blesses the poor in spirit, promises rest to the weary, and gave his own life so that their sins might be forgiven.

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.

Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party is **Sunday, December 10 at 5pm at the Grove Roots' Packing House (302 3rd St SW)**. This event is for adults only. We're looking forward to celebrating with everyone!

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: \$17,473

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