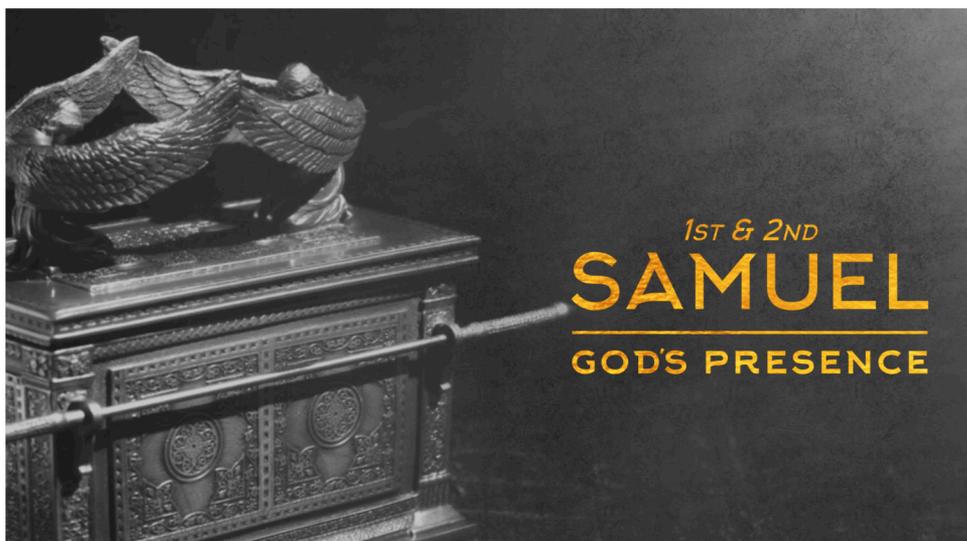




REDEEMER

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 26, 2023 – Twenty-sixth 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 97

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

Leader: The LORD reigns!

People: Let the earth rejoice!

Leader: Clouds and thick darkness are all around him. Fire goes before him... His lightnings light up the world

People: The earth sees and trembles.

Leader: The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

People: The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

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.

How Great Thou Art

Reading of the Law: Exodus 16:16; 20:20-21

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.

On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.... Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

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: Hebrews 12:18-24, 28-29

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 you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel... Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

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

The Solid Rock
Only A Holy God

Confession of Faith: First Catechism 121, 123, 125

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

Q121: What does it mean to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread"?

A: We are asking God to provide us with all that we really need.

Q123: What does it mean to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"?

A: We are asking God to forgive our sins for Christ's sake, and to make us willing to forgive others.

Q125: What does it mean to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"?

A: We are asking God to keep us from being tempted and to make us strong enough to resist when we are tempted.

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 6:1-15

Song of Response & Sending

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

Before the Throne of God Above

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 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, 4 with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. 6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" 10 So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

12 And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

Pg. 257 (2 Samuel 6:1-15 ESV)

Resources

Mark Buchanan, *Your God is Too Safe*

Donald McCullough, *The Domestication of God*

Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall*

Michael Reeves, *Rejoice and Tremble*

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: Beware of God!

Date: November 26, 2023

Intro: *Beware of God!*

I. UZZAH: THE TRIVIALIZATION OF GOD

"It's fatal to take charge of God." – Eugene Peterson

II. DAVID: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

"We take refuge from God in God." – A.W. Tozer

Takeaway: *Offer to God acceptable worship (cf. Heb 13:28).*



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

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.

2023 General Fund Summary

Needs to Date: \$905,812

Received to Date: \$834,720

MISSION
FUND

GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$17,473

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