



# 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.*



*December 1, 2024 – First Sunday of Advent*

### **Season of the Cross:** Purple for Advent

The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions—past, present, and future. In Advent, we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming. In Advent, we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan.

## Advent Introduction

Every year, for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we observe the season of Advent. The word Advent means "a coming or an arrival." It is a time for both honesty, and also hope. Honesty, because the world is broken. Hope, because the world is being redeemed. During Advent, we acknowledge the desolation that is an inevitable part of life in a sin-weary world, while, at the same time, turning our hearts, in joyful expectation, towards the consolation of the Coming. The arrival of the long awaited Savior. Jesus Christ has come. The baby born in a manger. He is coming again. The conquering King.

Each Sunday during Advent, we will emphasize a different theme as we celebrate his coming. To be with us, in this mess of our own making. We also anticipate his coming again, so that we might dwell with him, forever, in the world that he is remaking. In all the time in between, we wait, sustained by the life-changing truth of the Incarnation. Christmas is God's way of saying, "I'm here, so you don't have to be afraid."

## 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.*

O Come All Ye Faithful

## Advent Theme: Love

*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.*

Our Advent theme this week is **love**. The Story of the world begins with love. Eternal love. Between the Persons of the Godhead. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Spilling over into the making of all things. Humanity, most of all. We were made by love and for love. To be naked and known, by our Maker, and by one another. Sin is the sad betrayal of this love. It has left us wandering and restless. Hiding and posturing. Alone. We have walked from God. But He refuses to walk away from us. In fact, He has come running after us. The moment sin entered the world God gave a promise that he would not stop loving us. He would crush evil; by being crushed himself. Jesus Christ, Immanuel, was God's love walking among us. In love, he is remaking the world. In that new world, we will see Him face-to-face again. We will walk with Him, side-by-side, again. We will be loved, and we will love, as it was in the beginning.

## Advent Reading: Isaiah 53:4-6

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

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## 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).*

## Song of Advent

*In this song of advent we acknowledge our need of a Savior and anticipate His return.*

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

## Assurance of Pardon: Matthew 1:18-22

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

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

## 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*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Living Hope

## 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 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.*

Genesis 3:1-15

## Confession of Faith: The Nicene 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 one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.*

Sing to Jesus

## Mercy Offering: Sweet Savant Memorial Scholarship

## Song of Response & Sending

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

King of Kings

## 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.*

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Pg. 2 (Genesis 3:1-15 ESV)

## Resources

Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

Cornelius Plantinga, *Not the Way It's Supposed To Be*

C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

**Sermon Series:** Advent: The Coming  
**Sermon Title:** The Seed of the Woman  
**Date:** December 1, 2024

**Hook:** *Welcome to Advent!*

## **I. THE SERPENT'S SNEER**

*"Poor you, perhaps God doesn't want you to be happy." - Satan*

## **II. THE WORLD'S UNRAVELING**

*"Sin becomes the punishment for sin" - Augustine*

## **III. THE WOMAN'S SEED**

*"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."  
- 1 John 3.8*

**Takeaway:** *As you wait, kick Satan in the groin and take his stuff.*

# ADVENT RESOURCES

## *Advent Activities*

*redeemerwh.org/advent-kids*

## *Advent Hymns & Songs*

*Spotify: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-spotify*

*Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-apple*

## *Behold the Lamb of God (Andrew Peterson)*

*Spotify: redeemerwh.org/btlog-spotify*

*Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/btlog-apple*

## Available in the foyer



### Guide Format

In family worship, we profess God's work with us every time we read the Bible and pray. We pray for the world and for ourselves. We pray for the world and for ourselves. We pray for the world and for ourselves.

The family worship guide is designed to help you in an intentional time of worship and prayer during the season of Advent. It is a guide to help you in an intentional time of worship and prayer during the season of Advent. It is a guide to help you in an intentional time of worship and prayer during the season of Advent.

The format of our guide is designed to include the Bible and prayer in a regular time. We pray for the world and for ourselves. We pray for the world and for ourselves. We pray for the world and for ourselves.

## Announcements

**Christmas Party:** Our Christmas Party is **Sunday, December 8 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!

**Christmas Eve:** Make plans to join us **Tuesday, December 24**, for Christmas Eve. We'll have identical candlelight services at **4 & 5:30pm**.

**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 Ashley Bennett, [ashmbennett1013@gmail.com](mailto:ashmbennett1013@gmail.com).

MISSION  
FUND

**2024 GOAL: \$50,000**

**RECEIVED: \$31,813**

[redeemerwinterhaven.org](https://redeemerwinterhaven.org) | (863) 298-9849

Mobile App: [redeemerwh.org/app](https://redeemerwh.org/app) | [facebook.com/redeemerwh](https://facebook.com/redeemerwh)