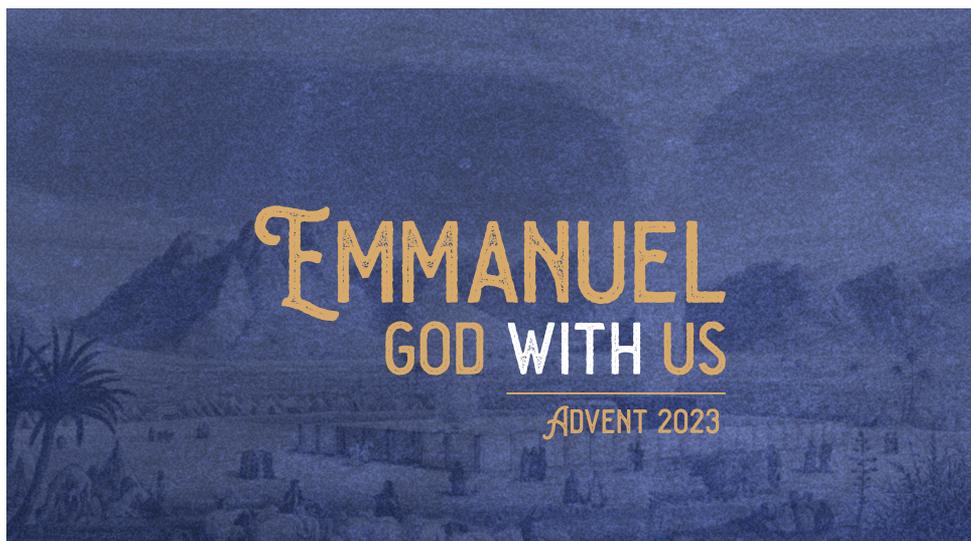




# REDEEMER

## 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 City Church opens wide its doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.*



*December 3, 2023 – 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 Jesus’ kingdom come! The truth is, the coming kingdom has already come. In the baby born in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ. Immanuel. God with us.

Each Sunday during Advent, we will emphasize a different theme as we celebrate the heart of God to be relationally present with his people. He has come, in Jesus, to be with us in this mess of our own making. Jesus will soon come 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.”

---

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Song of Advent

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

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

### Advent Theme: Love

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. All the way from heaven to earth. 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 we were meant to from the very beginning.

## **Advent Reading:** John 3:16-18

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

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

## **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).*

## **Assurance of Pardon:** Colossians 1:15-22

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

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before 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.*

## **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*

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery  
God With Us

## **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.*

## **Kid's 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 1:1-2; 2:4-9, 15-17; 3:6-15, 22-24

## Confession of Faith: 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.*

Runaway

## Song of Response & Sending

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

Living Hope

## 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.*

1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

3:6 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."

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Pg. 856 (Genesis 1:1-2; 2:4-9, 15-17; 3:6-15, 22-24 ESV)

## Resources

G.K. Beale, *The Temple and the Church's Mission*

John Eldredge, *Epic*

Cornelius Plantinga, *Engaging God's World*

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*

**Sermon Series:** Advent: Emmanuel  
**Sermon Title:** Made By God For God  
**Date:** December 3, 2023

**Hook:** *What is the main narrative tension in the Bible? Thus, in life?*

## **I. CREATION: Humanity enjoying God!**

*"Creation is an act of imaginative love." - Cornelius Plantinga*

## **II. FALL: Humanity losing God!**

*We are broken, true enough. But we are not simply malfunctioning. We are not machines that need to be fixed. We are transgressors who need to be forgiven." - Gregory Kouss*

## **III. REDEMPTION: God Finding Humanity!**

*"Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us." - Frederick Buechner*

**Takeaway:** *The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.*

# the Jesus Storybook Bible®

Advent



## Advent Family Worship Guide

Begin by singing “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” or some other favorite Advent/Christmas song.

Read “The Terrible Lie” from the Jesus Storybook Bible and discuss it together. Asking the following questions.

*Do you ever ask yourself, Does God really love me? Why do you think it’s so hard for us to believe that God loves us?*

*Do you believe God wants you to be happy?*

*What is the cause of all our unhappiness?*

*God promises that one day all the sad things will come untrue. What is one sad thing that you want to come untrue?*

Read the Advent Theme “Love” from the Worship Folder and light the first Advent Candle (if you have an Advent wreath).

Pray together using the A.C.T.S. model

*Adore God for his love which sent Jesus Christ into the world to rescue us.*

*Confess the wrong beliefs and behaviors that come from not believing that God loves you.*

*Give Thanks for Jesus Christ. Immanuel.*

*Ask the Holy Spirit to help you believe deep down in your heart that God really does love you.*

Finish by singing the chorus to O Come All Ye Faithful.

## 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!

**Santa's Run for the Kids:** The Winter Haven Optimist Club's "Santa's Fun Run For Our Kids" is **Saturday, December 16**. If you're looking to run, visit: [santasrunfest.org](https://santasrunfest.org). There is a 5K, 10K, half marathon, and a kids' sprint. Redeemer is sponsoring a recovery table and in need of a handful of volunteers.

**15 Year Celebration:** Hard to believe it's already been 15 years as a church family. Whether you were with us on day 1 at Winter Haven High School or if you've just found us recently -- we want you to celebrate with us. We're excited to invite you to our 15 year celebration **on Sunday, January 7, 5pm at Venue 650**.

**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: \$17,473**

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