



# 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 8, 2024 – The Second Sunday of Advent*

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### **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.*

### Angels We Have Heard on High

## Advent Theme: Faith

*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 **faith**. The message of Christmas is not, "Let me give you some advice." It is, "I bring you glad tidings of great joy." Christmas is history. It is the story of what God has done at a particular time in a particular place to rescue those He loves. If it is history, then salvation is, indeed, by grace. That is, we are saved by believing, not by doing. There is no moral of the Christmas story. There is just the story. It is gospel. The right response to gospel is to believe that it is not too good to be true. To stop running from God. Stop trying to do it all on your own. Stop trying to save yourself. And, proclaim instead, "The King has come!" Something has been done, and it changes everything.

## Advent Reading: Isaiah 11:1-6

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

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked...

... 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

## 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.*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

## Assurance of Pardon: Luke 1:26-33, 46-55

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

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

## 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 Thou Long Expected Jesus  
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.*

## 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.*

Jeremiah 23:5-6

## 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..*

Oh Righteous Branch

## Song of Response & Sending

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

This is Jesus

## 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.*

5 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Pg. 650 (Jeremiah 23:5-7)

## Resources

Caroline Cobb, *Advent for Exiles*

Nancy Guthrie, ed., *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Fleming Rutledge, *Advent*

J.C. Ryle, *Christmas Thoughts*

Tish Harrison Warren, *Advent*

**Sermon Series:** Advent: The Coming

**Sermon Title:** The Branch of David

**Date:** December 8, 2024

**Hook:** *How will all the wrong in the world be made right?*

## **I. THE FAILED STUMP**

*"The infestation of human pride is like a vast forest cut down." - Ray Ortlund*

## **II. THE RIGHTEOUS BRANCH**

*"All the leaves of the Bible are rustling with the whisper and the rumor that the King will come again." - Tim Keller*

## **III. THE NEW GROWTH**

*"He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found." - Isaac Watts*

**Takeaway:** *The cry of Advent is, "Come!"*

# 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



## Announcements

**Christmas Party:** Our Christmas Party is **TODAY, 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:** \$32,163

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