



# 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.*

# EMMANUEL

## GOD WITH US

ADVENT 2023

*December 10, 2023 – 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 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.”

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Song of Advent

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

O Come O Come Emmanuel

### Advent Theme: Faith

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, behold, “The King has come! In the city of David! He is wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger!” Something has been done, and it changes everything.

## **Advent Reading:** Isaiah 40:9-11

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

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

## **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:** Hebrews 9:11-14, 24-28; 10:19-22

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

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God... For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

## **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  
Abide

## 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 **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.*

Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9; 29:43-46; 40:33-38

## 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.*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

## 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.*

25:1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me...8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. 9 Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Pg. 65 (Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9 ESV)

29:43 There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

Pg. 70 (Exodus 29:43-46 ESV)

40:33 ...So Moses finished the work. 34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Pg. 80 (Exodus 40:33-38 ESV)

## Resources

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

J. Scott Duvall, *God's Relational Presence*

Tim Keller, *"God with Us"* sermon

Vern Poythress, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses*

## Family Worship/Group 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:** Advent: Emmanuel

**Sermon Title:** The Dwelling of God

**Date:** December 10, 2023

**Intro:** *Until very recently, every civilization has shown an impulse to build temples or houses for their gods to live in. Why?*

## I. LONGING

*"Out of (God's) heart flows mercy; out of ours, reluctance to receive it. We are the cool and calculated ones, not He. He is open-armed. We stiff-arm." – Dane Ortlund*

## II. LEADING

*"The tabernacle is a mobile Mt Sinai." – J. Scott Duval*

## III. LESSON

*"There is a door on which we've been knocking all our lives." – C.S. Lewis*

## IV. LITURGY

*"Repent of your small thoughts of God's heart." – Dane Ortlund*

**Takeaway:** *Don't focus on being like Jesus. Focus on being with Jesus and you will become like Jesus.*

# the Jesus Storybook Bible®

Advent



Begin by singing “O Come O Come Emmanuel” or some other favorite Advent/Christmas song.

Read the Advent Theme “Love” (from the first Sunday of Advent) and light the first Advent Candle.

Then, read the Advent Theme “Faith” (from the second Sunday of Advent) and light the second Advent Candle. Discuss faith, asking the following questions.

*The Bible contrasts faith and works. So, what’s the difference between faith and works?*

*When we say, we are saved by faith not works, what do we mean?*

*Does it ever feel like the gospel is too good to be true? If so, say more about that.*

Read “Ten Ways to Be Perfect” from the Jesus Storybook Bible and discuss it together. Asking the following questions.

*What is your least favorite “family rule” that your family has? Why?*

*Do you keep all the rules all the time? Give an example.*

*Did Jesus keep all the rules all the time? Give an example of how Jesus obeyed where you do not.*

*If we are not saved by keeping the rules (because we can’t do it all the time), then what is the right motivation for obeying God? (Hint: the answer is on pg. 106.)*

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 one specific way that you have broken God’s rules.*

*Give Thanks for Jesus. The Only One person who could keep all the rules.*

*Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a new heart with the right motivation to obey God.*

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

## Announcements

**Christmas Party:** Our Christmas Party is **TONIGHT 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. **The group is breaking on 12/26 & 1/2**.

**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:** \$17,893

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