



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 15, 2024 – The Third 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.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Advent Theme: Hope

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 **hope**. We are hope-shaped creatures. Living ahead of the time. Inhabiting the present moment in such a way that the future is the beating heart of the now. According to the Biblical prophets, the present state of affairs is always being crowded out by what is coming. A way of being-in-the-world that is infused with anticipation, not dread. This is what it means to wait. But waiting is not passive. It is acting today on the basis of the tomorrow God has promised. Hope is also dependent, because the future is the product of God's grace, not human innovation. For that reason, it is a sure thing. In fact, it's already here. It is just not very evenly distributed yet. One day. Very soon. The Good Shepherd will gather his people to himself. The King will execute justice and righteousness. So, we turn our eyes, in hope, to his second coming. To the day when he will bring to completion what he has already begun.

Advent Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4

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

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice...

...4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

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.

Is He Worthy

Assurance of Pardon: John 1:1-2; 14,16

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

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

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.

Joy to the World
Ancient of Days

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.

Daniel 7:1-3; 9-10; 13-18

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..

Jesus Bread of Life

Song of Response & Sending

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

Behold Him

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 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. 15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

Pg. 744 (Daniel 7:1-3; 9-10; 13-18)

Resources

Caroline Cobb, *Advent for Exiles*

Ian Duguid, *Daniel*

Fleming Rutledge, *Advent*

Christopher Watkin, *Biblical Critical Theory*

Sermon Series: Advent: The Coming

Sermon Title: The Son of Man

Date: December 15, 2024

Hook: *Have you ever been homesick?*

I. THE ANCIENT OF DAYS

"The Maker of man, he was made man, so that the director of the stars might be a babe at the breast; that bread might be hungry, and the fountain thirsty; that the light might sleep, and the way be weary from a journey; that the truth might be accused by false witnesses, and the judge of the living and the dead be judged; that justice might be convicted by the unjust; that strength might grow weak, eternal health be wounded, life die." - Augustine

II. THE SON OF MAN

"The Son of God has become the son of man in order – as man – to redeem and restore man to his originally designed status and glory." - Fred Zaspel

III. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

"In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time." - Fleming Rutledge

Takeaway: *As exiles, we work and wait.*

ADVENT RESOURCES

Advent Activities

redeemerwh.org/advent-kids

Advent Hymns & Songs

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-spotify

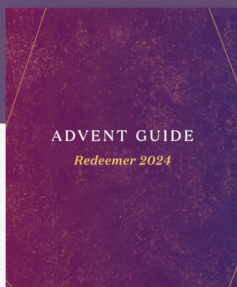
Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-apple

Behold the Lamb of God (Andrew Peterson)

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/btlog-spotify

Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/btlog-apple

Available in the foyer



Announcements

Communion Sunday: As you prepare your heart for corporate worship throughout the week, be reminded that we will participate in the sacrament of Communion this Sunday and throughout the remainder of the Advent season.

Christmas Eve: Make plans to join us **Tuesday, December 24**, for Christmas Eve. We'll have identical candlelight services at **4 & 5:30pm**. Childcare will be provided for children up to three years old.

Year-End Giving: All gifts must be received in the church office, made online or postmarked by **Tuesday, December 31** to be included on your 2024 Giving Statement. The church office will be closed December 26-31, reach out to Joe Ragsdale (joe@redeemerwinterhaven.org) if you need to schedule a drop-off during that week.

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 Ashley Bennett, ashmbennett1013@gmail.com.

MISSION
FUND

2024 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$33,132

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