



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 22, 2024 – The Fourth 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 You Unfaithful

Advent Theme: Joy

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 **joy**. We live in a world saddened by sin. Pain, sorrow, sickness, death, loneliness... these, just to name a few, are the currency in which earthly kingdoms operate. They commit injustices and rob us of our joy. There is a King, however, whose currency is joy, instead of pain. Hope, instead of sorrow. Well-being, instead of sickness. Life, instead of death. He has come! And his name is Jesus! He is our Joy. He is the One our hearts have waited for. The comfort of his presence is enough to make all of the sad things come untrue. So, we don't have to be afraid! The night is over. Morning has come.

Advent Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone... 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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.

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Assurance of Pardon: Luke 1:68-79

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

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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.

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee
He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

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.

Malachi 4:1-6

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..

Immanuel

Song of Response & Sending

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

Revelation Song

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 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

4 "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Pg. 802 (Malachi 4:1-6)

Resources

Caroline Cobb, ***Advent for Exiles***

Tim Keller, ***Hidden Christmas***

Fleming Rutledge, ***Advent***

Tish Harrison Warren, ***Advent***

Sermon Series: Advent: The Coming
Sermon Title: The Sun of Righteousness
Date: December 22, 2024

Hook: *When have you had to wait for something you badly wanted or needed?*

I. THE DARK NIGHT

"The authentically hopeful Christmas spirit has not looked away from the darkness, but straight into it." - Fleming Rutledge

II. THE SUNRISE

"Someday all our Advents will end." - Tish Harrison Warren

III. THE CHILD

"Now burn, new born to the world, Doubled-natured name, the heaven-flung, heart-fleshed, maiden-furled, Miracle-in-Mary-of-flame." – Gerard Manley Hopkins

Takeaway: *Behold!*

ADVENT RESOURCES

Advent Activities

redeemerwh.org/advent-kids

Advent Hymns & Songs

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-spotify

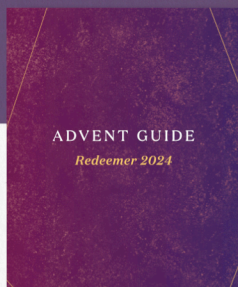
Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-apple

Behold the Lamb of God (Andrew Peterson)

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/btlog-spotify

Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/btlog-apple

Available in the foyer



Announcements

Christmas 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: \$35,337

redeemerwinterhaven.org | (863) 298-9849
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