



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 its doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.

The Gospel

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

December 29, 2024 – First Sunday after Christmas

Season of the Cross: Gold for Christmastide

Christmastide runs from Christmas Day until Epiphany Sunday. It is a celebration of the birth and incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God and true man. While many Christians recognize Christmas as a celebration of Jesus' birth, the season is also a time to celebrate the incarnation, that is, God becoming human in the person of Jesus. This season is commonly referred to as the twelve days of Christmas.

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1-8, 52

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

People: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

Leader: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him? O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?

People: Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

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 Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Reading of the Law: Romans 8:5-8

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.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please 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: Revelation 21:1-5

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 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God..."

... 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

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

Love Comes Down
All Sufficient Merit

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.

Matthew 1:18-25

Song of Response & Sending

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

In Christ Alone

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.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel"

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pg. 807 (Matthew 1:18-25 ESV)

Sermon Series: The Gospel: Encountering Jesus

Sermon Title: The Incarnation

Date: December 29, 2024

Hook: *Now that Christmas Day is over, how are we feeling?*

I. THE "HOW" OF THE INCARNATION

II. THE "WHY" OF THE INCARNATION

Announcements

BUILD: BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. We will meet weekly on Wednesday nights **January 8th through 29th**. **Dinner begins at 5:30pm, classes begin at 6:30pm.**

- 0-3 yrs | Childcare
- Infants-PreK | Catechism
- K-5th Grade | Catechism
- Youth | Youth Group
- Adults | Gospel Tools & Membership Course

Women's Bible Study: Our Women's Bible Study is beginning **Thursday January 23rd from 9:30-11 am**. We will be going through Josiah Bancroft's book *Philippians, Finding Joy When Life is Hard* Thursday mornings until April 10th. Please come and bring a small dish to share for our opening brunch.

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 this week.

Communion Next Week: As we prepare our hearts for corporate worship next Sunday, be reminded that we will participate in the sacrament of Communion.

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: \$42,337

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