



# REDEEMER

CITY CHURCH

*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.*



*February 21, 2021 – First Sunday of Lent*

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## **Season of the Cross:** Purple for Lent

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and runs 40 days through Holy Week. It is a reminder of Jesus' own 40 days in the wilderness, where He fasted and was tempted. Lent is a time of repentance and fasting, of preparation and penitence, as we look ahead with anticipation to His death and resurrection.

## **Call to Worship:** From Psalm 116 & 100

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

Leader: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**ALL: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**ALL: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

## **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.*

Thy Mercy, My God

## **Reading of the Law:** Proverbs 3:5-6

*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.*

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

## **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).*

## **Confession of Sin:** From *The Book of Common Prayer*

*In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God. We confess sin in the context of the covenant Lord's love shown to us through Jesus Christ. We offer our confession as part of a covenantal relationship.*

**Most holy and merciful Father: we confess to you, and to one another, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves... We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger pass from us. Accomplish in us the work of your salvation. By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon:** Galatians 3:10-14

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

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

## **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.*

## **Song 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*

By Faith  
O Great God

## **Receiving New Members:** Stabe's (9am) Fowler (10:30am)

*As was the case for believers in the Old and New Testaments, we are called to publicly confess our faith in the grace of God, to participate in the rituals of entrance into the people of God (circumcision in the Old and baptism in the New), and to acknowledge our membership with His people.*

Jeff & MacKenzie Stabe (*communing*)  
Micah Kay Fowler (*non-communing*)

## **Sacrament of Baptism:** (10:30am)

*The ritual of baptism is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the cleansing all people need before they are acceptable to God (sign), and it marks, tangibly to our senses, how real God's promise is for all who will trust in Him (seal).*

Micah Kay Fowler

## **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.*

## **Announcements & Kids' Worship Dismissal:** 9am

*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.*

Heb. 11:8-10, 13-16; Gen. 12:1-4a

## **Song of Response & Sending**

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

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

## **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.*

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Pg. 1007 (Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16 ESV)

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

Pg. 8 (Genesis 12:1-4a ESV)

## Discussion Questions

1. Think of a time when you left home. What was that like?
2. What do you think it looks like to live as "strangers and exiles on the earth" (Heb. 11:13)?
3. Where do you find yourself desiring "a better country...a heavenly one" (Heb. 11:16)?
4. Abraham's story teaches us that faith always leaves and faith always arrives. How does that both challenge and comfort you?

**Sermon Series:** By Faith

**Sermon Title:** Abraham: The Flight of Faith

**Date:** February 21, 2021

## **I. FAITH ALWAYS LEAVES**

## **II. FAITH ALWAYS ARRIVES**

# Lenten Devotional

## WEEK 1: LIFE & DEATH

### SCRIPTURE

Lent is a time of particular focus on life and death—the coming of life and the curse of sin, death, and evil in us, our relationships, and our world. The Psalms, as Eugene Peterson writes, “give us the equipment for our souls.” In other words, they teach and form us spiritually.

This week's Scripture is Psalm 1: “The Way of the Living and the Dead.”

Here, we are given the picture of the internal and external power of our hearts to long and lust for either life (righteousness) or death (wickedness). The psalm poetically pictures abundant life: a tree grows by a stream of water with fruit and prosperity. It also depicts the way of death: one who perishes apart from the presence of God.

**Psalm 1:** *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

**Q:** *Would you describe your current spiritual journey as “wandering in the desert” or “planting by a stream”? Why?*

**Q:** *What suffering, perishing, and effects of wickedness do you see in those around you? What withering do you see?*

**Q:** *How does the withering you see around you compare to the withering inside you?*

### PRAYER

*Pray for God to reveal the true condition of your soul to you and to lead you through the desert of sin and idolatry to be planted in the life of Christ.*

*Pray that through this season of fasting you would have a special sensitivity to the suffering of your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who are withering and being driven away by the cares of the world*

*Thank Christ for the courage of opening yourself up to His work of revealing your wounds and brokenness to you, and pray for confidence, joy, and patience in the process of this transformation.*

## Announcements

**Corporate Prayer:** If you are able, please join us **TODAY at 5pm** for a time of corporate prayer. We meet downtown at Central Park and will walk around downtown praying for our city government, businesses, non-profits, and churches. There will also be a Zoom prayer time at 5pm, [redeemerwh.org/zoom](https://redeemerwh.org/zoom).

**Session Meeting:** The February Session meeting will take place **TODAY immediately following the 10:30 worship service** in the classroom in the educational building. If you need prayer, have any concerns that you would like the elders to know about, etc. - all are welcome to join us at the beginning of our meeting.

**Men's Bible Study:** Guys, we'd love for you to join us for a weekly Men's Bible Study on **Tuesday mornings at 6:30am** in Covenant Hall. No RSVP or prep work necessary.

**Men's Hangout:** Our next men's hangout will be **THIS Saturday, February 27, 4pm at the Idols Aside Ranch (4420 Club Circle, Lake Wales)**. As always, bring your appetite and some friends.

**Mask Only Service:** We are now offering a **mask only service at 8am** on Communion Sundays. *The next service will be March 7.*

**Through Stained Glass:** Check out our new podcast **Through Stained Glass**. The first season is called **How to Disagree Well**. Visit [redeemerwh.org/podcast](https://redeemerwh.org/podcast) to find the podcast in your favorite podcasting apps or on the RedeemerWH app.

**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)).

**Online Directory:** Redeemer City Church's online directory is provided for Regular Attendees and Members. The great thing about this platform is that you can upload your own photo or edit your profile's information and it automatically syncs with our database. Visit [redeemerwh.org/directory](https://redeemerwh.org/directory) to access your profile.

**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/RCCmusic](https://redeemerwh.org/RCCmusic).



**PLEGGED:** \$751,789  
**RECEIVED:** \$705,828

Grace Abounding is Redeemer's campaign to raise funds for repairs and maintenance to the existing facility. Campaign information is available at [graceabounding.org](https://graceabounding.org).

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