



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.



December 4, 2022 – Second 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.” The coming of Jesus affected a first-order reversal of all previous arrangements – an altogether new creation *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. This expectation was announced by the prophet Ezekiel ahead of time: “Things shall not remain as they are. Exalt the low, and bring low that which is exalted” (Ezekiel 21:26). Indeed, the post-Christmas *kosmos* is something entirely new. It turns the world upside down and refuses to pick up what falls out of its pockets. A kingdom of grace. To join in, all you need is need. The kingdom belongs to those who humble themselves and receive it like a little child, because that is, of course, how the great King entered the world. He became a little child. His humility is our salvation. His salvation is our humility.

Each Sunday during Advent, we will emphasize a different theme related to humility – drawing from the gospel promise that, in the wake of the Incarnation, the last shall be first and the first shall be last (Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30; Matthew 20:16; Matthew 23:12). Jesus’ coming has upended the world. It is too big a truth to believe it and not be changed. If you believe, it can’t help but upend you too.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song of Advent

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

Deliver Us

Advent Theme: Faith

Today we light a candle as an act of **faith**. The world we live in is a place where the first are first and the last are last. Pure meritocracy. In the kingdom of heaven, however, grace reigns! And grace is exclusively for the undeserving. The strong and the accomplished have no need. They are just fine all on their own, which is why, ironically, they often find themselves on the outside looking in. The gospel maxim is, “the last will be first, and the first last” (Matthew 20:16), because, Jesus Christ, the First of all, became the last. The Incarnation was an act of cosmic humility. Therefore, only the humble get on it. Those who stop trying to achieve and, instead, simply believe.

Advent Reading: Luke 1:26-38

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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: Titus 3:4-7

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 the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)
Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

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.

Announcements & Kid's Worship Dismissal

*Children through **kindergarten** 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 20:1-16

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

God Made Low

Song of Response & Sending

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

Is He Worthy?

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.

Proclamation of God's Word: See Below for Pew Bible Page Numbers *A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.*

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last."

Pg. 825 (Matthew 20:1-16 ESV)

Resources

Hannah Anderson, ***Humble Roots***

Chris Hutchinson, ***Rediscovering Humility***

Andrew Murray, ***Humility***

Philip Yancey, ***What's So Amazing About Grace***

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: The One

Sermon Title: Upending Grace

Date: December 4, 2022

I. THE MERITOCRACY

"Grace is Christianity's best gift to the world." – Philip Yancey

II. THE KINGDOM OF GRACE

"Christians tend to be Augustinian in theory but Pelagian in practice." – Eugene Peterson

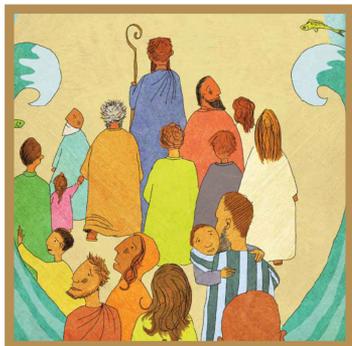
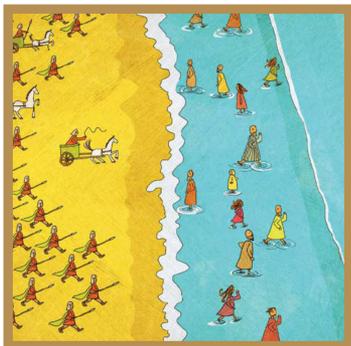
III. THE COSMIC REVERSAL

"Grace is not about finishing last or first; it is about not counting." – Philip Yancey

the Jesus Storybook Bible

2022 Advent

WEEK 2 – God Makes A Way



Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to encamp near the sea ..." As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. Then Moses reached out his hand over the Red Sea. All that night, the LORD pushed the sea back... The people of Israel went through the sea on dry ground.
EXODUS 14:1-3, 21-22

And so, that very night, Moses and God's people fled out of Egypt and out of slavery. They were free at last! God's people would always remember this rescue and call it Passover. But an even Greater Rescue was coming. - Sally Lloyd-Jones, JSB

Even when we feel stuck, even when there doesn't seem to be a way out, God will always find a way.

Dec. 4: A New Beginning

Dec. 5: A Giant Staircase To Heaven

Dec. 6: Son Of Laughter

Dec. 7: The Present

Dec. 8: The Girl No One Wanted

Dec. 9: The Forgiving Prince

Dec. 10: God To The Rescue!

Dec. 11: God Makes A Way

Announcements

2023 Bible Reading Plans: We have 2023 Community Bible Reading/Seeing Jesus Together schedules available in the foyer. New journals will be available in the coming weeks.

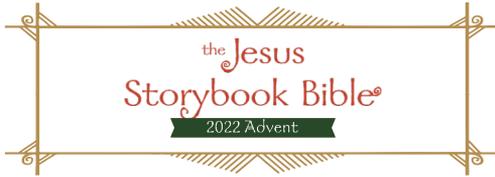
Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party will be **TONIGHT at 5pm at the Grove Roots' Packing House (302 3rd St SW)**. This event is for adults only.

Christmas Eve: For our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service we will have two services here at Redeemer. **Those services will be at 4 & 5:30pm**. Childcare will be available through pre-k.

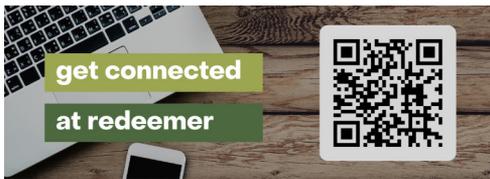
One Service: We will have **one abbreviated worship service at 10am on December 25 and January 1**. There will be no kids' classes those days.

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).



We have Advent Guides based on the *Jesus Story Book Bible* available in the foyer. We also have *Jesus Story Book Bibles & Christmas Collections* available for \$10 in the foyer.



MISSION
FUND

GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$39,185

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