



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 11, 2022 – 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.” 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.

The Light Has Come

Advent Theme: Love

Today we light a candle as a call to **love**. There are a lot of good people these days that are good in a really bad way. Their goodness causes them to look down on everybody else. The problem, of course, is, if you’re always looking down, you can’t see what’s above you. So, God came down. So far down that even proud people who only look down, and never up, might catch a glimpse of Him, and be changed by what they see. A helpless baby. The One who hurled the universe into existence, sleeping in his mother’s arms. From now on, all those who exalt themselves will be humbled. But those who humble themselves by believing in Him – they will be exalted (Matthew 23:12). Humility looks up to God. When you look up and see the Humble Savior, you will never look down on anybody ever again. We love because He first loved us.

Advent Reading: John 1:1-5, 14

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...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.

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: 1 John 4:7-11

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

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery
Prepare Him Room

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 **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 23:1-12

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.

Who Would Have Dreamed

Song of Response & Sending

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

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

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

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Pg. 828 (Matthew 23:1-12 ESV)

Resources

Hannah Anderson, ***Humble Roots***
Chris Hutchinson, ***Rediscovering Humility***
Andrew Murray, ***Humility***
C.S. Lewis, ***Mere Christianity***

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: Humility

Sermon Title: The Bad, the Good, and the Beautiful

Date: December 11, 2022

I. THE GOOD

"It is a terrible thing that the worst of all vices – i.e. pride – can smuggle itself into the very centre of our religious life." – C.S. Lewis

II. THE BAD

"When the corn is nearly ripe it bows the head and stoops lower than when it was green. When people of God are near ripe for heaven, they grow more humble and self-denying." – John Flavel

III. THE BEAUTIFUL

"Why are you proud, O man? God, for you, became low. You would perhaps be ashamed to imitate a lowly man; at any rate; imitate the lowly God." - Augustine

the Jesus Storybook Bible®

2022 Advent

WEEK 3 – The Young Hero & The Horrible Giant



Goliath shouted to the soldiers of Israel. He said,... "This day I dare the soldiers of Israel to send a man down to fight against me." Saul and the whole army of Israel were terrified. 1 SAMUEL 17:8, 10-11

With just one swing of his terrible sword, Goliath could finish the boy off. But David kept going. "It isn't how strong you are or how many swords and spears you have that will save you! This is God's battle. And God always wins his battles." God had saved his people. David was a hero! Many years later, God would send his people another young Hero to fight for them. And to save them. But this Hero would fight the greatest battle the world has ever known. - Sally Lloyd-Jones, JSB

Jesus is your Hero who fights for you. And he always wins.

Dec. 11: God Makes A Way

Dec. 12: Ten Ways To Be Perfect

Dec. 13: The Warrior Leader

Dec. 14: The Teeny Weenie...True King

Dec. 15: The Young Hero & The Horrible Giant

Dec. 16: The Good Shepherd

Dec. 17: Little Servant Girl & The Proud General

Dec. 18: Operation "No More Tears!"

Announcements

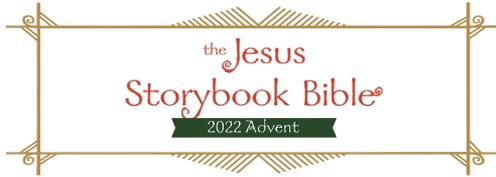
2023 Bible Reading Plans: We have 2023 Community Bible Reading/Seeing Jesus Together schedules available in the foyer. New journals will be available in the coming weeks.

Christmas 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.

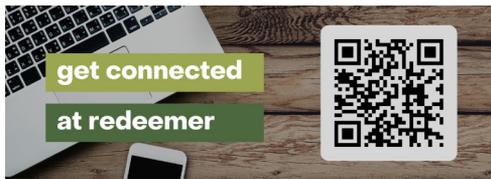
One Service: We will have **one abbreviated worship service at 10am on December 25 and January 1.** There will be no kids' classes those days.

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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