



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 18, 2022 – 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.” 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.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Advent Theme: Joy

Today we light a candle as a call to **joy**. The baby born to Mary would change the way the world works. In his administration, there would be a great reversal of fortunes. He would bring down the mighty and exalt those of humble estate (Luke 1:52-53). Bad news for the powerful and the proud, for sure. But good news for the poor. The weak. The lost. The least. Like Mary. Which is why she was singing about it. She’s not the only one. Zechariah responded to the Incarnation by singing. Simeon, too. Even the angels. They sang their birth announcement, because Christmas is good news of great joy for all people!

Advent Reading: Luke 2:4-14

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

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

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: Jeremiah 9:23-24

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

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

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

What Child Is This
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 **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.

Luke 1:39-55

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.

Joy to the World/Our God Saves

Song of Response & Sending

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

O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

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.

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Pg. 856 (Luke 1:39-55 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: Upending Joy

Date: December 18, 2022

Summary: *A subterranean river of joy flows in the humility of Christmas.*

I. THE MIGHTY GOD

To encounter him is to be upended; Mary's joy causes her to praise and make much of her Savior - she's been humbled

II. THE MERCIFUL GOD

His grace comes to the humble...Mary's joy causes her to reflect on the grace of God that only comes to the humble

III. THE REMEMBERING GOD

Christmas is confirmation that God does not forget His promises - He is a humble God, whose power is displayed in weakness

the Jesus Storybook Bible

2022 Advent

WEEK 4 – Get Ready!



"Then you will see that I will open the windows of heaven. I will pour out so many blessings that you will not have enough room to store them. The sun that brings life will rise. Its rays will bring healing to my people. You will go out and leap for joy like calves that have just been fed." MALACHI 3:10; 4:2B

It had taken centuries for God's people to be ready, but now the time had come for the best part of God's plan. God himself was going to come. Not to punish his people-but to rescue them. God was getting ready to wipe away every tear from every eye. And the true party was just about to begin. - Sally Lloyd-Jones, JSB

Jesus wants to fill your heart to overflowing with God's Forever Happiness. It's the whole reason he came.

Dec. 18: Operation No More Tears!

Dec. 19: Daniel & The Scary Sleepover

Dec. 20: God's Messenger

Dec. 21: Get Ready!

Dec. 22: He's Here!

Dec. 23: The Light Of The Whole World

Dec. 24: The King Of All Kings

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.

Epiphany Service: Join us Friday, **January 6, from 6-7:15pm** for our Epiphany Service. We'll close out the Christmas season by sharing a meal together, worshipping at our tables, and hearing updates from our global missionaries.

Men's Retreat: Guys, save the date for our men's retreat: **February 17-18 at Dark Hammock Ranch.** Registration will begin in January.

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).



MISSION
FUND

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

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