



REDEEMER

CITY CHURCH

December 10, 2017 – Second Sunday of Advent



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. It is a world where the last are first and the first last (Matthew 20:16). Nowhere is this more evident than in a theme woven throughout the entire Bible: a child supernaturally born from a barren womb. Sarah. Hannah. Elizabeth. Even more so, Mary. These women and their stories are a powerful reminder that salvation is by grace. It is God’s doing. Therefore, it only comes to the humble. The only thing you need to enter God’s upside-down kingdom of grace is need...Each Sunday during Advent, we will emphasize a different theme – a lesson we learn from the lives of these women of faith. This Christmas, may the rearranging truth of the gospel rearrange you.

Advent Theme: Joy

Hannah lived with a broken heart. Her life had not turned out the way she wanted. There were too many disappointments and regrets to count them all. She was a failure. She was treated like a failure by her rivals. It made for an unhappy life. And yet, in a great reversal of fortunes, she became the centerpiece of God’s plan for his people. God remembered her, which, of course, doesn’t mean He had forgotten her. It might be better said that Hannah remembered God. When that happened, everything changed.

Hannah’s story is a lesson in **joy** - our Advent theme this week. The Christmas story is filled with joy. As Christmas people we should be filled with joy, too. A supernatural joy not based on our circumstances. The opposite of joy is shame. Today we light a candle to remember that we are not defined by our failures or defeats, but by God’s relentless love, which goes to the most unlovely and unwanted among men.

Songs of Gathering and Preparation

We prepare our hearts, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Behold Our God

Call to Worship

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

1 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD....4 "Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. 5 For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. 6 The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit— a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. (Isaiah 54:1,4-6 ESV)

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV)

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).

Song for Advent

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Assurance of Pardon

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

11 On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. 12 But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD. 13 They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."14 Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. 16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 17 The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." 18 "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

Assurance of Pardon (cont.)

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

...19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. 20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD. (Zephaniah 3:11-20 ESV)

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

Rescue
Rejoice

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.

(Children through fifth grade are dismissed for kid's worship)

Proclamation of God's Word

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.

1 Samuel 1:1-10, 18-20; 2:1-10 *(see insert)*

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 for 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.

Advent Hymn

Songs of Response & Sending

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

Joy to the World

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.

Announcements

Greeting this morning are the **Bennett & Lear** Community Groups.

Christmas Eve: We will gather in the morning for our regular Sunday morning service. For our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service we will have two services here at Redeemer City. Those services will be at **5 & 6:30pm**. Childcare will be available through pre-k.

Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party will be **NEXT Saturday, December 16 at 6pm at the Sizemore's Home (227 Lake Link Rd)**. Childcare will be available at the church from 5:45-8:15pm. This event is for adults only. See insert for more info.

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).

(There is no offering taken during the service. An offering box is located at the front and the back of the sanctuary.)

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