



REDEEMER

CITY CHURCH



December 16, 2018 – 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 Old Testament prophet Isaiah described his day as a time of deep darkness and gloom. Yet, he knew it would not be that way forever. God's Rescuer would come! The King who would set the world to rights. A child, not a warrior, who would triumph through weakness. Then Jesus came and everybody was so happy - kind of how you feel when Christmas morning finally gets here. "The King is here!" they said, but instead of being seated on a throne, he was hung to a Cross, because His kingdom is not of this world. Each Sunday during this advent season we will emphasize a different aspect of the Child-King's reign. He remains the hope of the world. As we celebrate His first arrival at Christmas, we also look forward to the time when He will come again and all that Isaiah dreamed will come to be in His eternal kingdom.

Song of Gathering and Preparation

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

For Unto Us a Child is Born
Gather Round Ye Children Come

Advent Theme: Righteousness

The world is full of injustice. The strong prey on the weak. The gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to widen. Laws and social structures remain in place that advantage some by disadvantaging others. This is not the way things are supposed to be. We need a new administration. A different kind of kingdom... Today we light a candle to celebrate the righteousness of the Child-King's reign. "For the yoke of his burden and the rod of his oppressor you have broken" (Isaiah 9:4). His kingdom is the great reversal. The correction. Turning the world upside-down and refusing to pick up what falls out of its pockets. He is the king we need.

Call to Worship: Luke 1:26-33

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."

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 of Advent

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

Is He Worthy?

Assurance of Pardon: Luke 1:46-55

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

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

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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Silent Night

Announcements & Kids' 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: Isaiah 9:1-7

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

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

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.

Song of Response & Sending

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

A Baby Will Come
O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

Sermon Series: Advent: The Reign of the Child King

Sermon Title: Son of David, the Righteous King

Date: December 16, 2018

I. OPPRESSION

Sin is structural.

II. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

The gospel is the gospel of the kingdom.

III. RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE

Social justice is a result of the gospel but not the gospel itself.

Discussion Questions

(Our goal for this Advent season is that we would experience wonder. Like children on Christmas morning, that we would get wrapped up in the excitement of the Christmas story. So instead of discussing the sermon, try to capture a sense of wonder as you meet together. Sing songs together. Go caroling. Throw a party. Pray and just adore God together. Share testimonies of what He means to you.)

ADVENT FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

REDEEMERWH.ORG/ADVENT

Week 3: Dec 16-22

Advent Theme: Righteousness

The world is full of injustice. The strong prey on the weak. The gap between the haves and the have-nots continues to widen. Laws and social structures remain in place that advantage some by disadvantaging others. This is not the way things are supposed to be. We need a new administration. A different kind of kingdom... Today we light a candle to celebrate the righteousness of the Child-King's reign. "For the yoke of his burden and the rod of his oppressor you have broken" (Isaiah 9:4). His kingdom is the great reversal. The correction. Turning the world upside-down and refusing to pick up what falls out of its pockets. He is the king we need.

Begin by singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King

Christ, by highest Heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings
Mild, He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth

Read Isaiah 9:1-2; 6-7 together:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined... 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. 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 9:2, 6-7 ESV)

As you talk about righteousness, light the third Advent candle and read the Advent theme and ask the following questions:

God is interesting in bringing a wayward and unrighteous humanity back to righteousness. However, God does not do so merely by offering a moral code for humans to follow so as to right their own ship. The Bible is not a principally a handbook on how to be good and live for God. Rather, it is the story of how God has redeemed a fallen humanity through the life, death and resurrection of his Son, the child-King and has opened the door to life and righteousness through faith in him.

1. Whats the fastest way to get from one place to another? A straight line or zigging and zagging across a crooked path?
2. Is it possible to get back to God on your own, even if you try really hard?
3. Who is the Bible ultimately about? Who makes the crooked paths straight? How has God done this and how is God doing this today?

Pray together:

Adore God for who He is and what He has done for you. Give thanks for the gift of Jesus, the One who will make all crooked things straight. Ask the Holy Spirit to increase our delight in and practice of righteousness.

WINTER SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 1: MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8 AM	JANUARY 6: ONE SERVICE, 10:30AM JON EAGIN ORDINATION
DECEMBER 5: YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY	JANUARY 12: WOMEN'S BREAKFAST, 9AM
DECEMBER 7-8: ELBERT SHOP	JANUARY 13: RECONCILIATION SERVICE, 5:30PM LIVING WORD OF FAITH ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 15: CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 6PM	JANUARY 16: VISION DINNER, 5:30PM
DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE RITZ, 5:30PM	JANUARY 27: RENEW POLK SERVICE, 5PM FLORIDA SOUTHERN
DECEMBER 30: ONE SERVICE 10:30AM	

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: REDEEMERWINTERHAVEN.ORG

Announcements

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

Winter Schedule: Take a look at the last page of the Worship Folder for a full list of Events in December and January.

Christmas Eve at the Ritz: We are returning to the Ritz Theatre on **Monday, December 24 at 5:30pm** for a community wide Christmas Eve Service. There will not be childcare, but a cry room will be available. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbors.

Year End Giving: All gifts must be received in the church office, made online or postmarked by **Monday, December 31** to be included on your 2018 Giving Statement.

Grace Abounding: Redeemer's campaign to raise funds for repairs and maintenance to the existing facility. November 4-25 we had a supporting four week sermon series and presentations. Those sermons can be found on our app and campaign information is available at graceabounding.org. Print material, including a commitment card, can be found in the foyer. Contact Terry Henderson at terry@redeemerwinterhaven.org if you have any questions. **Please respond with commitments by December 31.**

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 Set List: 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.



Grace makes us generous as it abounds *to* us. God himself is generous. It is his nature as Trinity to be overflowing in self-giving love towards others. We see this most clearly in Jesus. Grace powerfully secures us in God's love in the gift of His Son to meet our every need.

Grace makes us generous as it abounds *in* us. Grace powerfully produces love, joy, peace, and hope in us in ALL things at ALL times for EVERY good work.

Grace makes us generous as it abounds *through* us. Every good gift God gives comes to us on its way to someone else. He blesses to make us a blessing, not for our own sake. Grace powerfully opens our hearts and hands to the needs of the world.

graceabounding.org

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