



# 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 opens wide her doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.*

## *The Gospel*

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

*January 5, 2024 – Epiphany Sunday*

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### **Season of the Cross:** Gold for Christmastide

Christmastide runs from Christmas Day until Epiphany Sunday. It is a celebration of the birth and incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God and true man. While many Christians recognize Christmas as a celebration of Jesus' birth, the season is also a time to celebrate the incarnation, that is, God becoming human in the person of Jesus. This season is commonly referred to as the twelve days of Christmas.

## **Call to Worship:** Based on Psalm 72

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

**People: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!**

Leader: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

**People: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!**

## **Song of Ascent**

*The first song we sing together guides us as we "go up" or approach the presence of God to worship Him. This song is meant to rouse us to worship and awaken our hearts.*

Come Ye Sinners

## **Reading of the Law:** Luke 18:18-23, 28-30

*While the law cannot justify us or make us righteous; it is a teacher given to lead us to Christ, the fulfiller of the law.*

18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" 21 And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich... 28 And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." 29 And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

## **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:** Micah 5:2, 4-5

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

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days...

... 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.

## 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*

Good and Gracious King  
Behold Him

## Worship Through Giving: Give Online at [redeemerwh.org/give](https://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.*

## Kids' 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 2:1-12

## Confession of Faith: The Apostles' 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 God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.*

All the Poor and Powerless

## **Mercy Offering:** Give Online at [redeemerwh.org/give](https://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.*

Chris & Donnette Brock

## **Song of Response & Sending**

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

All Must Be Well

## **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

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

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Sermon Series:** The Gospel: Encountering Jesus

**Sermon Title:** Responding to the King

**Date:** January 5, 2025

## **I. RECOGNIZING THE KING**

## **II. FEARING THE KING**

## **III. WORSHIPPING THE KING**



## THE GOSPEL IN

*Luke*

Luke informs us from the beginning (1:1–4) that his is not the only Gospel to have been written nor the only Gospel account that could be written (cf. John 21:25). Nevertheless, the church has always recognized the great gift that the third Gospel is to us. There are many beautiful and essential teachings of Jesus and pictures of the gospel that come to us from Luke alone.

While the historical and theological witness of all four Gospels contains many consistent themes, Luke describes for us the gospel and its application in several specific and important ways. At the broadest level we learn from this Gospel account that the gospel is multi-faceted and full-orbed. That is, the gospel is explained and applied as being about our whole lives, physically and spiritually, externally and internally, for now and for the future, in our relationship with God and with others. The gospel is not simply a message about religion and the “religious” portion of our lives. Rather, Luke’s presentation helps us see clearly that the gospel of Jesus is about the comprehensive blessedness of God available to us through Jesus Christ.

At a more specific level Luke retells the stories and teachings of Jesus in a way that consistently emphasizes that the gospel is a matter of the heart, the inner person, not mere external religion. Jesus constantly reveals the heart motivations behind our actions and pushes us toward opening our hearts in humility toward God. As a result, the gospel in Luke is often presented as a call to reevaluate everything in the world according to God’s perspective, not ours. This means valuing humility over prestige, mercy over justice, favor with God over favor with people, and—especially challenging to us—valuing a rich relationship with God over the power of money.

To emphasize this comprehensive understanding of the gospel, Luke uses a variety of complementary images to describe it. The gospel includes the message of peace, the offer of forgiveness of sins through repentance, the promise of inheriting eternal life, the invitation to enter the kingdom of God, and the joy of being with Jesus as a disciple. In all of this, the gospel is good news because it announces the grace and peace that have now come to sinners in Jesus Christ.

From *The Gospel Transformation Bible*,  
"The Gospel in Luke"

# Announcements

**BUILD:** BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. We will meet weekly on **Wednesday nights January 8th through 29th** . **Dinner begins at 5:30pm, classes begin at 6:30pm.**

- 0-3 yrs | Childcare
- Infants-PreK | Catechism
- K-5th Grade | Catechism
- Youth | Youth Group
- Adults | Gospel Tools & Membership Course

**Membership Course:** Redeemer's membership course is divided into four parts, corresponding to the parts of our theological vision – Gospel, City, Movement – and our membership vows. The classes will be **Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm (Jan 8 through 20) as a part of BUILD.** Sign up online if you are interested in participating. If you are unable to attend every class there will be an opportunity to makeup the missed material. [redeemerwh.org/membership](http://redeemerwh.org/membership)

**Women's Bible Study:** Our Women's Bible Study is **beginning Thursday, January 23rd from 9:30-11am.** We will be going through Josiah Bancroft's book *Philippians, Finding Joy When Life is Hard*, Thursday mornings until April 10th. Please come and bring a small dish to share for our opening brunch.

**Men's Retreat:** Save the date for our men's retreat: **February 21-22 at Dark Hammock Ranch.** Registration will begin soon.

**Get Connected:** The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our online newsletter ([redeemerwh.org/newsletter](http://redeemerwh.org/newsletter)) and our mobile app ([redeemerwh.org/app](http://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](http://redeemerwh.org/worship)).

## Our Mission

Our mission is to make Jesus' invisible kingdom visible in Winter Haven, Polk County, and the world.

## Church Planting

One of the ways we hope to accomplish our mission is by planting new churches throughout Polk County. We proudly partner with Renew Polk ([renewpolk.org](http://renewpolk.org)) and the Florida Church Planting Network ([flchurchplanting.org](http://flchurchplanting.org)).

## Community Groups

We also meet during the week in homes for what we call Community Groups. They are intended to be the primary "church" experience for all who are a part of Redeemer. If you are interested in visiting a community group, contact Ashley Bennett, [ashmbennett1013@gmail.com](mailto:ashmbennett1013@gmail.com).

MISSION  
FUND

**2025 GOAL:** \$50,000  
**RECEIVED:** \$300

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