



REDEEMER

WINTER HAVEN

*"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"*

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)



Growing Deep for Greater Reach

August 23, 2026 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Season of the Cross: Green for Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the long season that takes up three quarters of the church year. This portion of Ordinary Time runs between Pentecost and Advent. Ordinary Time has traditionally been devoted to seeking our Lord in the simple, ordinary day-in and day-out rhythms of life. It is a time in which we are all invited to order our lives around Christ's life and teaching.

Call to Worship: Psalm 67:1-3

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

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us

People: That your way may be known on earth, your saving people among the nations.

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

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.

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Reading of the Law: John 15:1-11

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.

15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

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 Repentance

In this song of repentance we acknowledge our sin and our need of a Savior.

My Worth is Not in What I Own

Assurance of Pardon: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9; 9:6-8

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

8:7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also... 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

9:6 ...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

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

Abide
There Is One Gospel

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.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught this prayer to guide His people in how to pray (Gospel of Matthew 6:9–13). When we pray it together, we address God as our Father, ask for His kingdom to come, depend on Him for daily provision, seek forgiveness, and look to Him for strength to walk in faithfulness.

Proclamation of God's Word

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

Isaiah 5:1-7, 25-30; 27:1-6

Campaign Commitment: 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.

Help Us See Christ

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 Glory Be to Christ

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

There is a prayer team available following the worship service for anyone in need of prayer.

Sermon Series: Stand Alone
Sermon Title: Growing Deep for Greater Reach
Date: August 23, 2026

Notes:

Proclamation of God's Word

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

5:1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

25 Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them, and the mountains quaked; and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still. 26 He will raise a signal for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come! 27 None is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a waistband is loose, not a sandal strap broken; 28 their arrows are sharp, all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the whirlwind. 29 Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey; they carry it off, and none can rescue. 30 They will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds.

Isaiah 5:1-7, 25-30 (ESV)

27:1 In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea. 2 In that day, "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! 3 I, the Lord, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day; 4 I have no wrath. Would that I had thorns and briers to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together. 5 Or let them lay hold of my protection, let them make peace with me, let them make peace with me." 6 In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

Isaiah 27:1-6 (ESV)

The background of the page is a deep blue marbled paper with swirling white and gold patterns. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with gold-colored corners. Inside this box, the title is written in a serif font.

THE GOSPEL IN

Ezra

One Last Glimpse

Ezra and Nehemiah offer the final piece of Old Testament history, one last glimpse of God's people living out his redemptive plan before the coming of the Messiah. God's covenant promises are gloriously on display as this weak, struggling remnant returns to Jerusalem after the exile to live together again as his people, according to his Word.

Ezra in particular highlights God's redemptive plan. The opening verse declares that God initiates these events that he himself decreed through his prophets. God's hand is then evident throughout: sovereignly directing the kings and peoples who aim to have a hand in Zerubbabel's return and rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 1–6), and personally clearing the path for Ezra's later return to teach the law (Ezra 7–10). All the action unfolds God's plan, according to his Word.

God's redemptive plan focuses on a people. Ezra makes clear who these people are: Abraham's seed, those whom God promised to make a great nation in whom all the nations would be blessed. In Ezra, this blessed "remnant" is reassembled and numbered carefully by tribe and genealogy. Ezra's passion to keep them holy and separate reflects not ethnic elitism but rather a concern to honor the Lord who had redeemed them, reflecting his holiness through their own. Ezra thus sought to bring Israel to demonstrate trust in the Lord by obeying his law. This is the blessed way of life given to this chosen people from whom the promised offspring would come, according to God's Word. These exiles did not know Jesus' name, but they carefully traced the seed promises leading to his birth.

God's redemptive plan focuses on a people created to worship him—and the plan provides the means. Hope continues to rise in this book as we see struggling, sinful exiles released in waves from Babylon and rebuilding the temple that identified their land as the place of God's people and promise. Their ancient hope for a messianic King was no longer visible in an earthly kingdom (Zerubbabel remained in the line of David, but as the servant of a foreign king). So, by the efforts of the returning remnant of Israel, amid Jerusalem's ruins, hope emerges more clearly for God's promised King, who would rule on an eternal throne, and who would release his people finally and fully from their oppressors. In the meantime, God had provided the temple as a witness to his continuing presence and promises—a temple whose sacrifices also pictured and pointed ahead to the perfect sacrifice that would be needed for the eternal deliverance of God's people.

This perfect sacrifice and final King would come four centuries after Ezra lived. Jesus gathers up all these ancient longings in his coming to earth. The importance of the temple in Ezra makes us look ahead to the one who is himself the temple, providing access into God's presence through his blood (John 2:18–22; Rev. 21:22). The plain appearance of Ezra's rebuilt temple (in contrast to Solomon's magnificent one) helps us anticipate the spiritual temple that will rise as Christ's body, the church (Eph. 2:19–22).

Ultimately, God provided his Word, which Ezra the priest set his heart to study and do and teach (Ezra 7:10). Old Testament history comes to a close with a picture of God's people gathered around God's Word, yearning for the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises—the fulfillment that would come with the Word made flesh.

Announcements

BUILD: BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. **We meet on Wednesday nights through September 9.** 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 | Redeemer's Gospel Tools

Campaign Launch: Our *Growing Deep for Greater Reach* campaign launches **TODAY**. Visit redeemerwinterhaven.org/campaign for full details.

Women's Bible Study: Ladies, this fall we will meet **Thursday mornings from 9:30-11am (September 3 through November 19)** in the Lakes Room. The study is based on *Colossians: Fullness of Life in Christ* by Lydia Brownback. Childcare is available.

The study will also be available **via Zoom on Monday nights (beginning September 7)**. Contact Sally Goodwill to be included: sallyg1110@aol.com.

The Commons: Our young singles ministry is hosting a game night at the McCracken's home (872 Eloise Cove Dr) on **Sunday, August 30 at 5pm**. For more information, contact **Dale (863.508.9807) or Misty McCracken (863.289.0735)**

Hearing Assistance: If you are in need of hearing assistance during the service, please join our "Redeemer Guest" Wifi and download the Listen Wifi App at redeemerwh.org/listen.

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).

Our Mission | Mandate

Sending leaders for a Gospel Movement in the City

Our Values | Motives

Gospel centrality | *calling sinners and the "righteous" to repentance*

Gracious community | *making Redeemer a safe place for sinners*

Earnest spirituality | *grace is opposed to earning but not effort*

Institutional integrity | *building trust for formative belonging through excellence*

Side-by-side ministry | *equipping the saints for the works of ministry*

Sending capacity | *growing through multiplication*

MISSION
FUND

2026 GOAL: \$50,000

RECEIVED: \$9,671

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