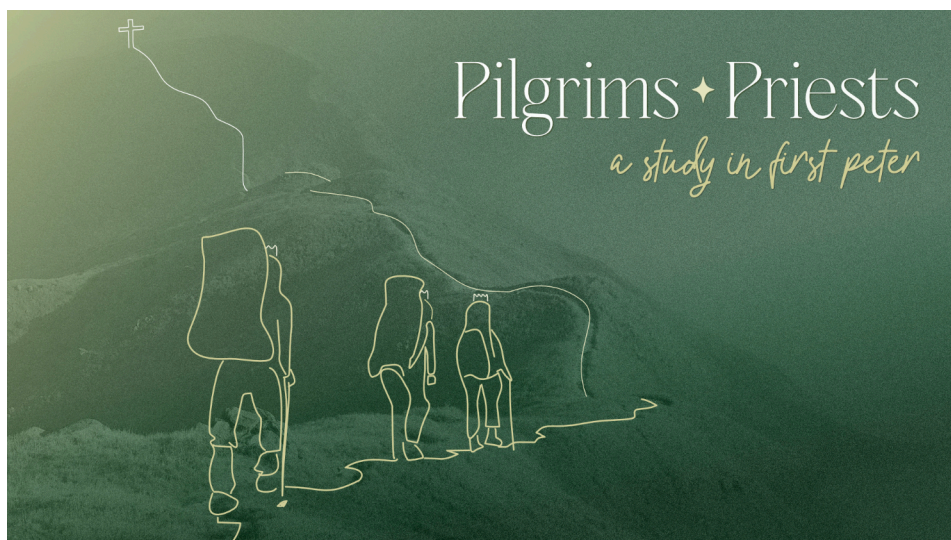




REDEEMER

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 its doors with a welcome from King Jesus the mighty Friend of sinners, the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the indefensible.



September 28, 2025 – Sixteenth 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 39

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

Leader: O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

People: Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

Leader: Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

People: And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

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.

Be Thou My Vision

Reading of the Law: Romans 8:18-25

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 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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: Romans 5:1-5, 10-11

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

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

The Lion And The Lamb
Only A Holy God

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 (9am) age 3 (10:45am)** 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.

1 Peter 3:8-22

Song of Response & Sending

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

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

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.

Proclamation of God's Word

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

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Sermon Series: Pilgrims and Priests

Sermon Title: Suffering For Good?

Date: September 28, 2025

Hook: *Have you ever been slandered?*

I. ETHICS

"Do not repay evil for evil...on the contrary, bless..." - 1 Peter 3:9

II. ATTITUDE

"Suffering, if faced rightly, can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine." Tim Keller

III. ENDLESS FUEL

"Resurrection means the worst thing is not the last thing." - Frederick Buechner

Take-away: *Jesus' victory ensures our victory.*



THE GOSPEL IN

Joshua

A Story of Grace

From the beginning to the end of the book of Joshua, the formula is repeated: God gives and Israel inherits. The spotlight is not on Joshua's moral example or on timeless principles of conduct but on Yahweh's fulfillment of a historical promise. Even Joshua's name ("Yahweh Saves!") points away from himself to the real hero of the story. Joshua is a story of grace.

God's gracious covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15 involved key promises, including a temporal land and nation (the "type," or beginning of a pattern) and an everlasting inheritance for all nations through his descendant—Jesus Christ (the reality to which the type pointed; see Gal. 3:16). Though entering land is a gracious gift (Deut. 7:6–9; 9:4–8), remaining God's holy nation did depend on Israel's obedience to the covenant. This echoes Adam's testing in Eden, with the consequent promise of life or death, blessing or curse, enjoyment of God or exile (Ex. 19:4–8; 24:3, 8; Deut. 11:17, 26; 28:1–68). Even after heeding the voice of the serpent, Adam and Eve received God's gracious promise of a Savior, the seed (or "off-spring") of the woman, who would crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). Would this seed be Israel? Was Israel the fulfillment of God's promise? In spite of much genuine faith and obedience under Joshua, already this book hints at the tragic verdict: "But like Adam they [Israel] transgressed the covenant" (Hos. 6:7). The nation of Israel was not the ultimate seed of God's promise but rather was God's instrument for providing it (that is, for providing him).

God's Authority

Like the spies Joshua sent into Jericho, the apostles were an advance force for the conquering purposes of God. But the means of their conquest were quite different. Jesus rebuked James and John for wanting to execute holy war on Samaritans that had rejected the gospel (Luke 9:51–56). Their mission was to preach the gospel of Christ's kingdom. Jesus similarly instructed the 72 to fulfill their mission not by force but by preaching (Luke 10–12), giving them "authority to tread on serpents" (Luke 10:19). However, it is Satan—the real Enemy behind the earthly enemies—whose head is finally being crushed (Luke 10:17–20; cf. Rom. 16:20).

Our God yet retains the physical and spiritual authority to do as he wishes for the whole world. When Christ returns, he will judge the whole earth, together with his saints (1 Cor. 6:2). His victory will be more powerful and forceful than anything that we read about in the book of Joshua; it will mark the final destruction of evil and the establishment of everlasting righteousness and peace. Through Joshua's conquest we discern the power of God's might through an incredibly flawed nation, but only in the Seed that would come through Joshua's people do we see the true purpose and end of God's conquering promises. Unlike the wars of old that led only to more bloodshed and misery, Christ's global judgment and victory when he comes again will truly be the war to end all wars (Matt. 3:11–12; 24:27–25:46; Rev. 17:1–20:15).

Announcements

Women's Night Out: Ladies, please plan to join **Friday, October 10, from 6-8pm** at 867 Twin Oaks Lane for a night out. Bring a friend and your favorite dessert or appetizer.

A Night of Worship and Prayer: On **October 15 from 6:30-7:30pm**, our church will join together to pray for the world and those around us through song and corporate prayer. We hope to see you there!

Renew Polk Worship Service: On **Sunday, October 26 at 5:30pm**, Renew Polk will be hosting a combined worship gathering at Christ Community (6565 S Florida Ave). This evening is an opportunity to hear updates on how God is moving in and through church plants here in Polk County while also praying for the gospel to continue to bear fruit in our area. Consider making this a Community Group outing.

Faith and Work: This fall, Redeemer men's ministry will host a gathering to look at Tim Keller's book *Every Good Endeavor*, which articulates the intersection of work and faith from the perspective of the gospel. Come enjoy a complimentary buffet dinner, hear God's wisdom for work, and enjoy fellowship. Bring a friend! Please mark your calendars:

- **October 17**, 4-8pm, Country Club of WH. Register at redeemerwh.org/golf.
- **November 20**, 6-9pm, Brown's Sea Plane Base

We're Hiring: We're looking for a pastoral resident and a new director of our women's ministry. To see the job descriptions or apply, please visit redeemerwinterhaven.org/employment.

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

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) and the Florida Church Planting Network (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.

MISSION
FUND

2025 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$8,089

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