



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.



December 28, 2025 – First Sunday After Christmas

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 12 days of Christmas.

Call to Worship: Psalm 103

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

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities,

People: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

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.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Reading of the Law: Ephesians 5:1-2

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.

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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: 1 John 3:1-3

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

3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him...

...2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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

O Come All Ye Faithful
When We See Your Face

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.

Proclamation of God's Word

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

Luke 15:1-2; 11-13; 20-32

Song of Response & Sending

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

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

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

Proclamation of God's Word

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

15:1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

25 "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Pg. 874 (Luke 15:1-2; 11-13; 20-32)

Resources

Tim Keller, *Hidden Christmas*

Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*

Stephen Presley, *Cultural Sanctification*

Sermon Series: God Running To Us

Sermon Title: Becoming the Father

Date: December 28, 2025

Hook: *Do you believe God is like the Father in Jesus' parable?*

I. LOVING

"What I am called to make true is that whether I am the younger or the elder son, I am the son of my compassionate father. I am an heir. Indeed, as son and heir I am to become successor. I am destined to step into my father's place and offer to others the same compassion that He has offered me. The return to the Father is ultimately the challenge to become the Father." – Henri Nouwen

II. LOVED

"Nothing can now un-child you. Not even you. Those in Christ are eternally imprisoned within the tender heart of God." – Dane Ortlund

Take-away: *Learn to improv.*

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: The session has called a congregational meeting to be held next **Sunday, January 4**, immediately following the morning worship service for the purpose of electing elders and deacons.

Year-End Giving: All gifts must be received in the church office, made online or postmarked by **Wednesday, December 31** to be included on your 2025 Giving Statement. Please reach out to Joe Ragsdale (joe@redeemerwinterhaven.org) if you need to schedule a drop-off or to donate stock. If you're interested in making a year-end gift or pledge for our upcoming Growing Deep for Greater Reach Campaign (Building Fund) contact MattE Diaz at campaign@redeemerwinterhaven.org.

Women's Bible Study: Our Women's Bible Study is beginning **Thursday January 22 from 9:30-11 am**. We will be going through the *Person of Jesus, Unit 1: Compassion* book Thursday mornings until April 30. Please come and bring a small dish to share for our opening brunch.

Women's Retreat: Ladies, we'd love for you to join us at The Grove Resort in Orlando **January 30-Feb 1, 2026** as we practice and experience Deeper Rest in Christ Alone. To register, please visit redeemerwh.org/womensretreat. *Please note that the deadline to register has been extended but there are limited spaces still available.*

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

2024 GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$16,279

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