



REDEEMER

CITY CHURCH

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 City Church 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.



THE WORTHY ONE

ADVENT 2021

December 19, 2021 – Fourth 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 refers to the arrival of something, or Someone, of vast importance. It is a time for both honest reflection and hopeful anticipation.

The world has changed. Much that once was has now been lost. We all feel it. The prophet Isaiah wrote to a people in exile. Yet, he dared to put God's dream for a better future into words that his people could live by. He spoke of a kingdom not of their own doing. It would be a gift. The remaking of the whole world. Brought about, not through human effort, but by God's special Representative. The One. The singular Person who would succeed in all the ways the people themselves had failed. The only One in all of heaven and earth who is worthy to make God's dream for the world a reality. He was known to Isaiah by many titles. The Child. The King. The Servant. The Messenger. We know Him by name - Jesus Christ.

This Advent, we celebrate Jesus' coming into the world to rescue us, even as we look and ache for him to come again, with the kingdom in hand, to finally set us – and the world with us – right.

Song of Gathering and Preparation

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

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Advent Theme: Joy

The prophet Isaiah gives voice to the sadness of the world. Even God's people are not exempt from having broken hearts. The world is broken and beyond repair, at least, by human hands. But there is One who can rebuild and restore. The Messenger, sent by God, with good news. Anointed by God for the special work of bringing about the reversal of all our loss and grief. One day soon, when all that work is done, and the kingdom is finally all-the-way here, the eternal instead will make up for everything. Beauty instead of ashes. Joy instead of mourning. Comfort instead of shame. We will see then that life really is a fairy-tale, and we will all live happily-ever-after.

Our Advent theme this week is **joy**. As a protest against all the sadness that still clings to the world, we light a candle anticipating our coming joy in Jesus' kingdom. "Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy" (Psalm 126:5).

Advent Reading: Luke 1:26–34, 46–47

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." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her... And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

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 of repentance we acknowledge our need of a Savior and anticipate His return.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Peter 1:3–8

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

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

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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.

Announcements & Kid's 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.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 7-8, 10-11

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.

O Come All You Unfaithful

Song of Response & Sending

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

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.

Proclamation of God's Word: See Below for Pew Bible Page Numbers
A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our own lives.

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy. 8 For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Pg. 620 (Isaiah 61:1-4, 7-8, 10-11 ESV)

Resources

Martyn Lloyd Jones, *Spiritual Depression*

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Ray Ortland, *God Saves Sinners*

Eugene Peterson, *As Kingfisher's Catch Fire*

Sermon Series: Advent: The One

Sermon Title: The Anointed One

Date: December 19, 2021

I. THE PROBLEM OF JOY

"Joy is a fruit that will not grow in nature's soil." - John Newton

II. THE PERSON OF JOY

"Instead is a gospel word" - Eugene Peterson

III. THE PROCESS OF JOY

"You can't make yourself happy. You can make yourself rejoice." - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

IV. THE POWER OF JOY

"There is enough joy in the little finger of a saint to wake all the dead things to life." - C.S. Lewis

ONLINE RESOURCES

Advent Scripture Meditations

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/advent-spotify

Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-apple

Advent Hymns & Songs

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-spotify

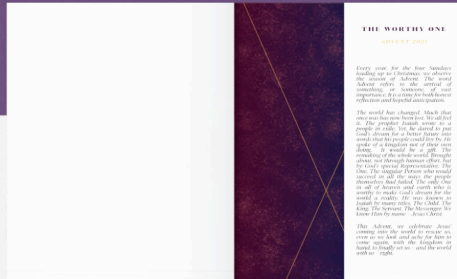
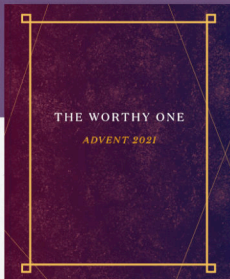
Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-apple

Behold the Lamb of God (Andrew Peterson)

Spotify: redeemerwh.org/btlog-spotify

Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/btlog-apple

Available in the foyer



Announcements

Christmas Eve: Our **Christmas Eve service will be at Venue 650 at 5:30pm.** We're grateful for the opportunity to remain in one service as we celebrate the coming of our Savior. We'll have a lot of extra room so please invite your friends, family & neighbors. There will not be childcare, however, the service will be family friendly and a cry room will be available.

Year End Giving: All gifts must be received in the church office, made online or postmarked **by Friday, December 31 to be included on your 2021 Giving Statement.**

Men's Retreat: Guys, registration is now open for our men's retreat **February 4-5 at Dark Hammock Ranch.** Visit redeemerwh.org/rsvp for more details and to register.

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).

Online Directory: Our online directory is provided for Regular Attendees and Members. The great thing about this platform is that you can upload your own photo or edit your profile's information and it automatically syncs with our database. Visit redeemerwh.org/directory to access your profile.

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/RCCmusic.

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 Jonathan Winfree, jonathan@redeemerwinterhaven.org.

**MISSION
FUND**

**GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$24,464**

redeemerwinterhaven.org | (863) 298-9849
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