



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 12, 2021 – Third 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.

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Advent Theme: Love

The prophet Isaiah decries the pride and boasting of the human heart. We are too big for our britches. It's a big problem, because, when we're so focused on ourselves, it is hard to love and serve others. The Bible says that greatness is humility. Yet, God's people, like all the rest of mankind, too often still grasp for power. But there is One who has been tasked with remaking the world through sacrificial love. **The** Servant. Imagine the surprise when the Servant, God's representative, came... serving. The people scratched their heads. One day soon, he will come back to the earth, but this time as an enthroned King bringing His glorious kingdom. People will be surprised again, when they realize that, in the end, the world bows to meekness.

Our Advent theme this week is **love**. Against all of the pride and selfishness that still finds a home in our hearts, we light a candle as a declaration of our love for the One who came not to be served but to serve and give his life for his people. Jesus Christ. The Lion of Judah. The Lamb that was slain. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

Advent Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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.

What Child Is This?

Assurance of Pardon: Matthew 20:25-28

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

But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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 Light Has Come
What A Beautiful Name

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 42:1-4; 53:3-11

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.

How Deep the Father's Love

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 the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

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 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Pg. 602 (Isaiah 42:1-4 ESV)

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Pg. 613 (Isaiah 53:3-11 ESV)

Resources

Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*

John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

Sermon Series: Advent: The One
Sermon Title: The Suffering Servant
Date: December 12, 2021

I. FROM LOVE

"The triune God is the love behind all love." - Michael Reeves

II. WITH LOVE

*"The posture most natural to (Jesus) is not a pointed finger but open arms."
- Dane Ortlund*

III. TO LOVE

*"Sin is man substituting himself for God. Salvation is God substituting Himself for man."
- John Stott*

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

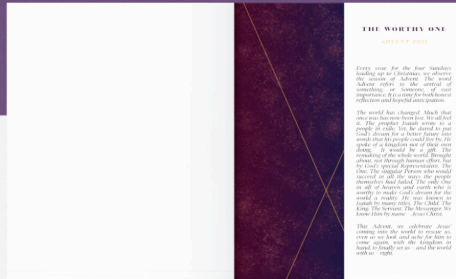
Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-apple

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.**

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**

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