



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



A CHURCH FOR THE CITY

August 13, 2023 – Eleventh 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 147:1-6

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

Leader: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

ALL: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Leader: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

ALL: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Leader: The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

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.

All Creatures of Our God and King

Reading of the Law: Leviticus 19:1-4, 10-11, 13-14

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.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God... "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God... "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

Prayer of Adoration & 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

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

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Song 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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Good and Gracious King

Confession of Faith: First Catechism Q55-57

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

Q55. What does God the Father guarantee in the covenant of grace?

A: To justify and sanctify all those for whom Christ died.

Q56: How does God justify you?

A: God forgives all my sins and accepts me as righteous through Christ.

Q57: How does God sanctify you?

A: God makes me more and more holy in heart and conduct.

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 4:16-30; James 1:27

Song of Response & Sending

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

His Mercy Is More

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

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

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well!" 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

Pg. 859 (Luke 4:16-30 ESV)

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Pg. 1011 (James 1:27 ESV)

Resources

Larry Hurtado, *Destroyer of the gods*

Glen Scrivener, *The Air We Breathe*

Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*

Discussion Questions

1. Prayerfully reflect on your heart, circumstances, relationships, etc. How did you "come" into worship today?
2. Where did the gospel "dwell in you richly" in the service today? In the prayers? In the singing? In the sermon?
3. Specifically, how were you led to turn from sin and trust in Jesus?
4. What is the one thing from the sermon this morning that you would most want to pass on to someone else?

Sermon Series: A Church: For the City
Sermon Title: The King and His Kingdom
Date: August 13, 2023

I. DEFINING THE WORK

Jesus begins his public ministry by declaring his personal mission statement...

II. THE TENSION OF THE WORK

What happens when we try and separate the King from His Kingdom?

III. THE POWER BEHIND THE WORK

Submission to the King results in a love of His Kingdom - the generosity of the King makes His subjects generous



THE GOSPEL IN

Nehemiah

Nehemiah continues Ezra's final glimpse of God's people mercifully reestablished in their land after the Babylonian exile and before the long, dark intertestamental period of waiting for a greater restoration and revelation of God's deliverance. Many have noted this book's lessons in leadership. Wise, prayerful Nehemiah leads a third group of exiles back to Jerusalem and there unites the people, amid surrounding opposition, to rebuild the city walls and to live as God's people according to his Word. But Nehemiah is about much more than leadership, however inspiring that leadership might be.

In the end, this book leaves us with a leader's failures more than his successes. Rather than focusing mainly on human faithfulness to God, the book of Nehemiah shows God's faithfulness to his unfaithful people. This divine faithfulness is rooted in God's covenant promises. As in Ezra, the remnant of God's people is here recorded carefully by genealogy: this is Abraham's seed, the people God promised to bless and through whom he would bless all the nations of the world. Perhaps at no point in their history had the prospects for this people looked bleaker, with a ruined city to rebuild, hateful enemies all around, and sin always threatening from within.

At this point of weakness, Nehemiah leads the people toward trust in a strong, trustworthy God. The wall rebuilt under Nehemiah's direction pictures not fearful retreat or isolation but rather God's protection of this people whom he has chosen, and through whom he will accomplish his redemptive plan for the human race. The book's climax comes not simply with the finished wall but with worship of the Lord God who has spoken and whose word will not fail. As we see this people rebuilding, so imperfectly and sustained only by God's faithful promises, we cannot help but look ahead to God's people today. For we too, though not working with physical stones, are "like living stones . . . being built up as a spiritual house." And Christ himself is the chief cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:5–6).

Nehemiah's people were waiting for the promised Savior, who now has come according to God's word of promise: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Even as we see and worship Jesus, God's people today also wait for him—for his second coming. As living stones in God's spiritual house, with Jesus as the cornerstone (Eph. 2:19–22), we also build imperfectly, battling enemies without and sin within. But we also look ahead to God's promise of that "holy city, new Jerusalem," the eternal dwelling of God with his people (Rev. 21:2–3). Safe in that city, around the throne of God and of the Lamb, "his servants will worship him" perfectly and forever (Rev. 22:1–3).

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: The session has called for a congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 20**, following the morning worship service.

BUILD Resuming: We're excited to resume BUILD this Fall. BUILD is a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and get trained in our gospel tools. We'll meet weekly on Wednesday nights for a 4-week stretch between **August 23 and September 13**. **Dinner will begin at 5:30pm, classes will begin at 6:30pm.**

- 0-2 yrs | Childcare
- Infants-PreK | Catechism
- K-5th Grade | Catechism
- Youth & Adults | Community Bible Reading, A Praying Life, Person of Jesus

Women's Bible Study: Come and join the women of Redeemer as God unveils his best for each of us and the profound mystery of His plan. Discover what the Spirit of God desires to reveal to you through the pages of the book of Hebrews. It will be worth the journey as you delve into the wonder and majesty of Jesus, the treasure of all treasures waiting to be discovered, embraced, and enjoyed.

You can join us either on **Monday nights (Sep 11 — Nov 6) via Zoom from 6:30-8pm** or **Thursday mornings (Sep 21 — Nov 16) at Redeemer from 9:30-11am.**

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 Jonathan Winfree, jonathan@redeemerwinterhaven.org.

MISSION
FUND

GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$14,993

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