



# REDEEMER

SOUTHWEST CHURCH

*Advent*

⇒ THE COMING OF I AM ⇐

*Sunday, December 1, 2019*  
*"I AM The Bread of Life"*

---

## *Advent Introduction*

Every year, for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we observe the season of Advent. The word Advent means "a coming or an arrival." Christians live in the Time Between. The Already and the Not-Yet. The span separating Jesus' first coming, as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead. As such, it is a time to acknowledge the present darkness - the disappointment, brokenness, suffering and pain that characterize life in this present world. But to hold it in tension with the promise of the future consummation of the kingdom, and to watch and wait. Each Sunday during this Advent season we will look at who Jesus claims to be in his own words. These I AM statements also reveal the deep soul longings in all of us that will only be met when faith becomes sight and we walk by the light of his glory.

# *Song of Gathering*

How Long?

*Call to Worship:* Luke 1:26-35

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 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, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 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.

*Advent Theme:* Hope

The world is starving for something lasting, but can't seem to find it. Even the "Hallmark" moments of life are tainted with the bitter flavor of brevity. Nothing seems to satisfy the persistent ache we feel, in even the best moments. All our havings are wantings. Our sad reality is that we're on a hamster-wheel, frantically trying to find life before it's too late, but getting nowhere. But God loves us too much to let us starve and die wondering if he even cares. To a people hungry for something lasting, something that will truly satisfy, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Today, we light a candle to say, "Yes, Lord, we believe."

Come, Lord Jesus

*Praising God & Confessing Our Sins*

*The Good News:* Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."...

...13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

## *Greeting*

## *Songs of Praise*

O Come O Come Emmanuel  
O God of Mercy Hear Our Plea

## *Thanking God & Praying for Others*

## *Scripture Reading & Sermon*

John 6:25-51 (*see insert*)

## *Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed* (*see screen*)

## *Sacrament of Communion*

Prepare Him Room

## *Songs of Response & Sending*

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

## *Benediction*

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: Pg 891 in Pew Bible

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." 41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

John 6:25-51 (ESV)

### Discussion Questions

1. Advent means "an arrival" and is a season where the Church emphasizes waiting, longing, and crying out for Jesus' return to make all things right. What aspect of His Second Coming are you most longing for *right now*?
2. If true, then Christmas changes everything; God has come, heaven has broken in! It's not cynically "it is what it is" but "it's not what it was and it's becoming what it will be!" How does that give you hope and change the way you live?
3. By repeating "I Am", Jesus claimed to be not only human, but divine; equal with God. The question He poses to everyone is, "Who do you say that I am?" Why can't we simply relate to Jesus as another good teacher or model of moral living?
4. The crowds didn't seek Jesus out in order to get Him, but rather for what he could give them (more bread). What are ways we can be tempted to do the same?
5. Discuss what you're tempted to "feed on" to give you a sense of security, worth, significance, and identity. How does Jesus, the Bread of Life, satisfy your hungers better than anything else?
6. Jesus says the work is to "believe" in Him (John 6:29)! Pray for faith to believe this Christmas, which will overflow in "doing" the works of love that Jesus did.

*Sermon Series:* Advent: The Coming of I AM  
*Sermon Title:* I AM The Bread of Life  
*Date:* December 1, 2019

I. "I AM"

II. "THE BREAD OF LIFE"

# Announcements

**Christmas Party:** Please join us **THIS Friday, December 6th at 6:30pm at the Blasio's house (720 Heritage Dr NE) for our annual Christmas party.** This is a time to relax and celebrate all God has done this year. The church will provide drinks, but please plan to bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. This is an adults only event so please arrange childcare.

**Ministry Opportunity:** Project Love, a mission project through St John's Methodist Church, is collecting donations to provide hams or turkeys to the Eloise and Wahneta area families. If interested, \$15 buys one and you can give Karen Schreiber a check made payable to "Project Love."

**Audio-Visual Team:** The RSW worship team is looking to develop a schedule of volunteers to run the slides (and some of the soundboard) throughout the service. No prior experience is required as you will be trained. We are hoping to have a rotation in place at the beginning of January 2020. For any interest or questions, please email Ethan Gilmore at [ethanwgilmore@gmail.com](mailto:ethanwgilmore@gmail.com).

**Get Connected:** The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through our mobile app ([redeemerwh.org/app](https://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/RSWmusic](https://redeemerwh.org/RSWmusic).

## Student Ministry

Our youth group meets Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00pm at Redeemer City Church (1410 Dundee Road) for grades 6th to 12th. Contact Michelle Gilmore if you have any questions: [michellemariegilmore@gmail.com](mailto:michellemariegilmore@gmail.com).

## Community Groups

Sunday mornings are great, but there's not much time to really get to know anyone or build relationships. Community groups are our way of doing that. They are bi-monthly informal small groups that meet in homes and are the primary way of "connecting" with others at Redeemer Southwest Church. Please contact Rodney Barton ([rodney@redeemerwinterhaven.org](mailto:rodney@redeemerwinterhaven.org)) for more info.

**Blasio Group**  
[Blasio99@aol.com](mailto:Blasio99@aol.com)

**Copeland/Conway Group**  
[bwcopeland@gmail.com](mailto:bwcopeland@gmail.com)

**Scholten/ Gall Group**  
[jenniferscholten@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferscholten@gmail.com)



A congregation of Redeemer Winter Haven, PCA

### Contact

Phone #: (863) 298-9849  
[redeemerwh.org/app](https://redeemerwh.org/app)  
[redeemersouthwest.org](https://redeemersouthwest.org)