



REDEEMER

SOUTHWEST CHURCH

Advent

⇒ THE COMING OF I AM ⇐

Sunday, December 8, 2019
"I AM The Light of the World"

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

Gather Round Ye Children

Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:1-7

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Advent Theme: Peace

In the absence of visual cues, people tend to walk in circles. That's our spiritual reality without Jesus. Blindfolded by our own sin. Walking without seeing. Spinning in circles. We're stuck. Jesus loves us enough to burst our bubble. Turns out, without God, we're not walking straight. We're flying blind. But Jesus is the Light of the world. He has come, from outside the world, to bring the truth that can set us free. "Follow Me," he says, "and you will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." This morning, we light the second Advent candle and say, "We follow you, Jesus."

Come, Lord Jesus

Praising God & Confessing Our Sins

The Good News: Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Greeting

Songs of Praise

Dawning Light of Our Salvation
O Come All Ye Faithful

Thanking God & Praying for Others

Scripture Reading & Sermon

John 1:1-9; 8:12 (see insert)

Sacrament of Communion

Come Light Our Hearts

Songs of Response & Sending

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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.

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.

Proclamation of God's Word: Pg 886 in Pew Bible

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 1:1-9; 8:12 (ESV)

Sermon Series: Advent: The Coming of I AM
Sermon Title: I AM The Light of the World
Date: December 8, 2019

I. Longing for the Light

II. The Dawning of the Light

III. Living in the Light

Announcements

Rudolph Roundup: Heartland for Children is looking for partners to be "Rudolph Champions" to help provide holiday memories for over 1500 local children who are living in foster homes, placed with relatives or non-relatives, and/or living in group homes away from their family & friends. Gifts for infants and kids between 13-17 are the highest need area. Please bring your new, unwrapped toy to the donation box in the lobby **by NEXT Sunday, December 15.**

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 Wahnetta area families. If interested, \$15 buys one and you can give Karen Schreiber a check made payable to "Project Love."

Christmas Eve: For our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service we will join with **Redeemer City (1410 Dundee Road). There will be two different service times: 4 & 5:30pm.** Childcare will be available through pre-k.

Get Connected: The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Redeemer is through 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/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.

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@redeemervinterhaven.org) for more info.

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