



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

November 28, 2021 – First 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: Faith

The prophet Isaiah describes the world as a place of deep darkness and gloom. Instead of being God's light, all too often, even we his people are a part of that darkness. But there is a Light from outside the world that shines into the darkness. All the shadows flee before it. A child. **The** Child. The One who would burn so brightly, so beautifully, that he would light up the whole world. So much so, that one day soon, when his kingdom is finally all-the-way here, there will be no more night. Oh, and no more sun. And no more moon. Only his glory.

Our Advent theme this week is **faith**. Against all of our lingering fear and unbelief, we light a candle as an act of faith in the One who has come into our darkness and will come again to banish it forever. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. "Whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Advent Reading: John 1:1-5, 11-14

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And 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.

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 Come O Come Emmanuel

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 1:5-9

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

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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
O Come All Ye Faithful
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 9:2-7

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.

Song of Response & Sending

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

Joy to the World

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.

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.

Pg. 573 (Isaiah 9:2-7 ESV)

Resources

W.H. Auden, *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*

Ray Ortlund, *God Saves Sinners*

Fleming Rutledge, *Advent*

Sermon Series: Advent: The One

Sermon Title: The Child

Date: November 28, 2021

I. THE DARKNESS

"We cannot save the world. ... We can't even save ourselves." - Alan Noble

II. THE LIGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE WORLD

"Nothing can save us that is possible." - W.H. Auden

III. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

"You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16)

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

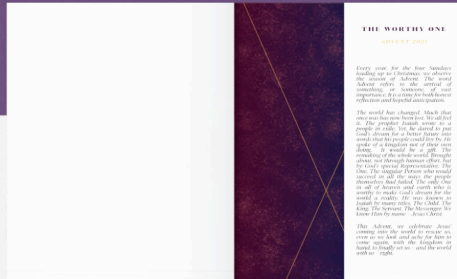
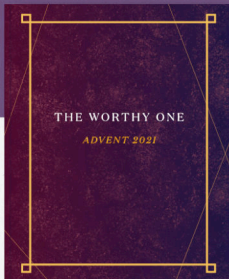
Apple Music: redeemerwh.org/advent-hymns-apple

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.

Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party will be **Sunday, December 5 at 5pm at the Sizemore's Home (227 Lake Link Rd)**. Childcare will be available at the church from 5-7pm, please help us prepare by RSVPing for childcare: redeemerwh.org/rsvp. This event is for adults only.

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/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@redeemewinterhaven.org.

**MISSION
FUND**

**GOAL: \$50,000
RECEIVED: \$23,164**

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