



## SUNDAY RECAP for Sunday, December 10

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

### **SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON:**

*1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

### **This Weeks ADVENT PRAYER:**

“An Advent Prayer: The Sacrificial Tenderness of Jesus” by Scotty Smith

*Dear Lord Jesus, your manger was a veritable garden of grace, for there the Father planted you as the tender shoot of Isaiah’s vision. Hallelujah, you are root of life that has broken through the dry ground of our fallen world and hearts.*

*I am truly in awe, this morning, at the sacrificial tenderness of your incarnation. You created beauty, yet you became the one with “no beauty,” for us. You took the vileness and ugliness of my sin, that I might become pure and beautiful in you. O holy merciful mystery. Though you have always enjoyed the delight of the Godhead, you became the despised one—the rejected one for us, for me. What wondrous love is this, indeed?*

*You—the fountain of pleasures, whose laughter fills heaven, whose joy is our strength; you became the man of suffering and sorrows for us—for me. And though you didn’t remain a “tender shoot,” you have retained all tenderness. In taking up your cross, you took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows; you bore our guilt and exhausted our judgment—once and for all. What a wonderful, merciful, tender Savior you are.*

*O to esteem and love you, as you deserve, Lord Jesus. May your tenderness grow in my heart and be real to my family. So very Amen I pray, in your beautiful and grace-full name.*

## Heidelberg Confession Q:36

Q: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

A: He is our mediator and, in God's sight, (1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:13-15) he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived. (2 Rom. 8:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19)

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Advent is a season of waiting, why do you dislike waiting? What do you do in the midst of waiting? How do you try to get out of seasons of waiting?
- When you consider your daily life, what do you perceive as the escape from the darkness, distress, and gloom? How are you trying to solve that problem on your own?
- How have you contributed to the darkness you often find yourself existing in?
- If Jesus has been sent to be our rescue from the darkness, despair, and gloom, why do we seek other "rescuers"?

## QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

See the [NEW CITY CATECHISM](#) app for great questions to review with your children to help them understand Christian Theology.

- Do you ever feel alone? What do you do when you feel alone? Do you know that Jesus is always with us, knows what we are going through and cares for us? Isn't that amazing!?!?
- Why would it be so terrible if Jesus never came? (We'd still be in our sins, we couldn't be with Him forever, we would all go to hell, etc.)
- Who can we pray for during ADVENT, that they would know Jesus as the "Prince of Peace"?

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: [Come Let Us Adore Him](#) by Paul David Tripp

Articles: [The First Christmas Carol](#) by Scott Churnock

[Bringing Christ Into the Problem](#) by Gene Veith

[Christ-Centered Silence for the Noisy Advent](#) Season by Gabriel Statom

**SONGS WE SANG** \*Check out our Spotify playlist here: <https://goo.gl/BQddvV>

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#) by Red Mountain Music

[He Has Come for Us](#) by North Point

[A Day of Glory](#) by Austin Stone

[Hallelujah What a Savior](#) by Austin Stone

## READINGS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The mighty God summons the earth □ from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

**C: Our God comes and will not be silent.**

**□ God calls, and we respond to his love. □**

L: The heavens declare God's righteousness. □ We tell of God's glories! □ Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

**C: And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.**

—based on Psalm 50:1-3, 6

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Lord, we have not kept watch for you. □ We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. □ We have not waited to find your will for us. □ We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. □ We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. □

**C: Help us to wait to know your will. □**

**Help us to look out for the needs of others.**

**□ Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen. □**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Our Almighty God, who sent our Savior, Jesus Christ to us in great humility, will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

In Christ, all your sins are forgiven.

**C: Hallelujah our sins are forgiven!**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Whether you are experiencing great peace right now in this life or filled with anxiety and fear, the truth is that our peace has come, He is Jesus Christ our Lord. Take a moment to extend the peace of Christ to one another right now.

### BENEDICTION

May God the Father, who loved the world  
so much that he sent his only Son,  
give you grace for what lies before you this week.  
Peace be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

## SERMON NOTES:

THE PERFECT KING | ADVENT 2017 | WEEK 2

**Q: What is the solution to all your problems?** (In other words, what do you fantasize about that would take you into your preferred existence)

- Money? No more budget issues!
- Something money can get you? A worry-less existence?
- Superpowers? Teleport, Super-strength, ability to go invisible, time travel, control over nature or other people, etc.)
- A Perfect Body?
- True Companionship?

What that thought process tells us - We are limited and needy! We can't create whatever we desire or make things they way they "ought to be".

Consider the scenario that the people of Judah find themselves in in the book of Isaiah:

*Isaiah preached in the southern kingdom of Judah during the closing decades of the eighth-century B.C. It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. When Isaiah began his work about 740 B.C., Judah was still basking in long-sustained prosperity. But the good times were nearly over, and the people sensed it. They lived in a pivotal moment and in a threatening world. The crisis of their generation was the rising Assyrian empire to the east, and these four kings of Judah proved how mixed the nation's response was — **trust in God complicated by deeper trust in themselves.** The Assyrian threat was the point at which these leaders and their people would decide whether God would save them or whether they had to develop their own strategies of self-salvation. Every generation is tested at some point of felt urgency, and to us today God freely offers himself as our most powerful ally. Whether or not we choose him is the story of our generation, and nothing else ultimately matters.*

- Ray Ortlund Jr., *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners (Preach the Word Commentary Series)*

Here is how Isaiah describes what is coming for the people of Judah at the end of ch.8

**Isaiah 8:22**

*And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.*

In the midst of their *distress, darkness, and gloom of anguish*, they hear this great news...

**Isaiah 9:1,2**

BUT there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish...

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.

**Isaiah 9:6**

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.

In the midst of gloom and darkness they find their hope in the announcement of a child.

Who is HE? What will He do for us? What kind of Kingdom will he bring us?

**SERMON SUMMARY:**

**Jesus is the very thing we need in the midst of the darkness we created**

**1. He's the answer to our lack of wisdom (folly), HE IS THE WONDERFUL COUNSELOR**

- The history of God's people in the scriptures is one characterized by folly. Instead of holding to God's promises and waiting, they come up with their own plan \
- Examples:
  - o Abraham and Sarah- Sarah gives Abraham her maidservant to lie with and impregnate rather than waiting for the promise of becoming pregnant herself

- Aaron and the Israelites when Moses goes up to receive the law- They build an idol and begin worshipping instead of waiting for Moses to come down

The people of God need WISDOM. But not just in word form. They need all the wisdom of God distilled into a person and for that person to exist with them and lead them. To be their ever-present king. And into the world comes a baby in a manger and his name is: **Wonderful Counselor**.

## 2. He's the answer to our lack of power (weakness), HE IS THE MIGHTY GOD

The people of Judah need much more than principles to get them out of the "*distress, darkness, and the gloom of anguish*". The time for helpful principles is *long gone!* All their ideas and striving has only go them more darkness, more despair, and more gloom. They are *exhausted of their own power* and might to do anything at all. They have devised schemes, they have concocted strategies, they have tried and tried to save themselves.

Now, They are left needing the very ONE they rejected to save them.

*ESV Study Bible: Isaiah announces God's surprising plan of grace and glory for his rebellious people and, indeed, for the world.*

In the midst of their need God says, "I'll send the Son who contains all that is the POWER OF GOD"

## 3. He's the answer to our lack of protection (powerlessness), HE IS THE EVERLASTING FATHER

One of the scary parts of the *distress, darkness, and the gloom of anguish* is that you are vulnerable, alone, and in need PROTECTION.

The description for what you want in your PROTECTOR is summarized in one word: Father. **He is the perfect mix of POWER AND TENDERNESS.** He is strong and compassionate. **He destroys the enemy and consoles the sinner.**

Calling Jesus "FATHER" makes it personal. This Jesus is not only a mighty warrior who fights on our behalf, he is also like a loving and caring Dad. In Him we are KNOWN like a father knows a child, and we are cared for. What a compassionate King. Our loving advocate in the midst of the *distress, darkness, and gloom*

## 4. He's the answer to your lack of peace (conflict, strife, schism), HE IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Since Genesis 3 there is something that has characterized the world- and that is conflict. Conflict between each other, and certainly conflict between us and God. We have been fighting with God ever since.

- Fighting for our **independence from Him.**
- Angry at Him for **trying to control us.**
- Angry at him for **not fixing the situations** in our lives and in our world.

We think:

"If there is a God why doesn't he do something about...."

"If there is a God why does he allow...."

The fighting and the schisms continue, but in the midst of the anger and hatred there is a promise given- **This son sent to you will give you what you were made for- PEACE.**

He will remove the disunity and separation of *distress, in the darkness, in the gloom* and bring peace. Peace with God. Peace with one another. Peace with creation.

Our rejection of Him got us into the *distress, in the darkness, in the gloom.* Peace will deliver us out of it.

**Conclusion:**

Like the people of Judah, we find ourselves in the *distress, in the darkness, in the gloom*, and the solution then was the same solution today. He was sent TO US, our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, and our Prince of Peace.