

# SUNDAY RECAP

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

***DON'T FORGET! ASH WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE IS TONIGHT @ 6:30 PM!***

## **LENT COMMUNITY DEVOTIONAL**

Here is a great Lent Community Devotional for you to consider and invite others to go through it with you: [Living Through Dying: 6-week Community Guide Through Lent](#)

## PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY -----

### **Sermon Scripture: Acts 3**

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

### **Songs for this Sunday:**

[Oh How I Need You](#) by All Sons and Daughters

[Lead Me to the Cross](#) by Shane and Shane

[Awake my Soul](#) by Derek Webb

[Thou Lovely Source of True Delight](#) by Jars of Clay

[Calvary](#) by Hillsong

## REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY -----

### **SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON**

**Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- In our Prayer of Confession this week we said, "We confess that we have neglected to live lives dependent upon one another. We think we can do this life on our own." Do you agree with that statement? Where do you see that in your own life? How is your life *dependent* upon others in our church family? What is one way you can practice your *dependent* life with others?
- Why is the community formed by the gospel so important to the message of the gospel? Why is the community of the gospel important to the mission of the gospel?
- Have you ever had an experience of community (or relationships) that really shaped you or was really impactful to you? Describe that experience and why it was impactful for you.
- A friend says to you, "I am a Christian, but I'm not part of a church.. I figure my relationship with God is between me and Him. I can read my bible on Sunday morning by myself, or even download a sermon podcast to listen to." How would you respond to them?
- Take a look at this document: [Simple Ways to Be Missional](#) and pick one simple way can start living with gospel intentionality (or come up with your own).

## **QUESTIONS FOR KIDS**

**PARENTING RESOURCE: "How to bring the Gospel into Parenting"**

<https://saturatetheworld.com/resource/how-to-effectively-bring-the-gospel-into-parenting/>

### **New City Catechism Question 29: How Can We Be Saved?**

Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

*\*\*If these words are not age appropriate for your child you can try a simple answer like: "By believing that Jesus was perfect and died for my sin."*

- ⇒ What do you really like about church? Why do you think it is important to be part of a church?
- ⇒ When the first church started they spent a lot of time together, eating together, hanging out together, and talking about Jesus together. Who from our church would you like to invite over for dinner? (What a wonderful idea parents! 😊)
- ⇒ Look at the [Simple Ways to Be Missional](#) document with your kids and pick out a new practice to engage in together as a family!

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Videos: [Ordinary People Living on Mission](#) by Saturate  
[How Can Children Be Involved in Mission](#) by Paul Tripp  
[On Mission Together](#) by Saturate

Article: [Discipleship: An Invitation to Relationship](#) by Saturate  
[Simple Ways to Be Missional](#) by Verge Network

Book: [Total Church](#) by Timmis and Chester

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

[Living Waters](#) by Kristyn Getty  
[Oh You Bring](#) by Hillsong  
[You Have Redeemed My Soul](#) by Page CXVI  
[He Will Hold Me Fast](#) by Keith and Kristyn Getty  
[Come Thou Fount](#) by St. Andrews Hymns

## READINGS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God now declares us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,

**C: Now we know redemption. Therefore we can proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

L: Once we were not a people, we were lost and alone, but now we are God's very own people

**C: Before we didn't know mercy, for we had not received it. But now we have all received abundant mercy. Praise God!**

- adapted from 1 Peter 2:9-10

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen.

**C: You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.**

L: You tell us we are one, but our lives most often operate independent of one another.

**C: We confess that we have neglected to live lives dependent upon one another. We think we can do this life on our own.**

L: We often choose the death you saved us from rather than life in you.

**C: God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent of our sin and ask your forgiveness.**

**Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- Galatians 5:1

L: Without any effort of your own, you have been set free from your sin. Receive forgiveness and do not go back to that life of death. You are forgiven!

**C: Our sin is not counted against us, for we have faith in Christ!**

### *PASSING OF THE PEACE*

Since we are a community formed by the gospel of peace, let's take a moment to greet one another with that peace. Take care to welcome those who may be new to our community.

### *BENEDICTION*

L: Go from here and live the life of God's redeemed community. May the unity we have be lived out in our everyday lives this week.

Go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

**C: And Also with you!**

## **SERMON REVIEW**

**Sermon title:** The First Church

**Watch** it again here: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/the-first-church/>

### **Sermon Overview:**

Our Sermon Summary for this week was: A gospel community's (church's) corporate life together demonstrates the reality of the word that gave her life

The book Total Church tells of a scene from the movie Bobby about the assassination of Robert Kennedy in 1968. The scene is of the kitchen staff all eating together and a Mexican gentleman named Miguel is expressing his anger at the prejudice and injustice he faces on a daily basis. As he is ranting you see the African American head chef (played by Laurence Fishburne) just calmly listening and then he speaks up saying, "You know what your problem is Miguel? You've got no poetry, you've got no light. You've got no one looking at you and saying "Man, that Miguel, I want what he's got!"

There is something of Acts 2:42-47 there as we see a community who has "poetry and light", who's life together is attractive and declares the love of God to the world. In other words, their life together demonstrates the reality of the word (gospel) that gave her life.

This community had no New Testament to look at to instruct them how to organize themselves as a church, so its very interesting to see what being a "community of the gospel" meant to them.

The text tells us they devoted themselves to four things- the Apostles teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.

The Apostles teaching is the message they heard from Jesus (see Luke 24:27) and the message we heard proclaimed by Peter in his first sermon (Acts 2:14-42). The message was all about Jesus. How He was the Messiah sent by God, killed and rejected, and rose from the grave. And that our response to rejecting Him is repentance and faith. This is the message that has changed them ("cut them to the heart") and this is the message they continue to gather around. We often think the message of the gospel is simply the entrance into Christianity and then we move on to other things (how to improve ourselves), this community didn't think that, they wanted to continually hear the story about Jesus. As Martin Luther put it,

"The gospel is... the principal article of all Christian doctrine... Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually."

Well said, Luther, well said!

The “fellowship” refers to the community created by the gospel. Just like the Old Testament promises foretold, they are now God’s people. They didn’t have the rugged individualism that we see in the west. They saw themselves not as individuals who would once in a while be part of a community, but rather their primary identity was as God’s new community. The community of Jesus.

Thirdly they devoted themselves to intentional (and repetitive) practice. The “breaking of bread” most likely refers both to a meal and the Lord's Supper, for they were together in the original practice with Jesus and they probably continued that practice. The meal plays a big role in the history of God’s people. A meal is what brought our downfall (Genesis 3), the passover was celebrated with a meal, Jesus spent his ministry eating meals with sinners, he gives us a symbol of His death for us and its a meal, and the end of the story called the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 21). There is something special about gathering together around a table and feasting together. Receiving our provision from God with glad hearts. It lets us experience the union we have together in a very special way.

Lastly, this community devoted themselves to “everyday Gospel”. They had a sacrificial love for one another which looked like taking care of one another's needs. Sacrificial love is a synonym of the Gospel. The way they received their meals was a reflection of the gospel- “they received their food with glad hearts”. They knew they didn’t deserve what they were receiving, but they received as a gift from their good Father who adopted them as sons and daughters.

They were also everyday missionaries. They were hospitable and welcoming of those outside their community. They must have been, for the text says that they “had favor with all people”. They were a community of “poetry and light” that onlookers were attracted to and welcomed into. God was gracious to add to their number daily those who were being saved.

FOR US TODAY - We have to be honest and know that this type of community takes intentionality. Its going to take living out the realities of the gospel together. If we want the watching world to know that the gospel has restored us to god and one another then living as family together is going to be key. But that takes time and intentionality on our part. It takes looking at our schedules and deciding to be devoted to it. It takes making room to be with each other, pursuing those who don’t yet believe, and inviting them in. It takes the intentionality to build relationships- with each other and with those who don’t yet believe. May God be gracious and create this type of community here within us. Amen.