

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!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, June 10, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Pre-Service Prayer //

Loving God,
We come to worship you today.
We come to sing, pray, and listen.
You always hear us.
Help us to hear you. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

There is none like you, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things, you alone are God.
—from Psalm 86:8-10

[Oh How I Need You](#)

[Depth of Mercy](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair.
They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.
They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.
They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

C: How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?

Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

L: Keep your servant from deliberate sins!
Don't let them control me.
Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin.

**C: May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you.**

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

- Psalm 19:10b-14 NLT

// Assurance of Pardon //

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

—Psalm 32:1-2, NRSV

[Good Good Father](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

The Peace of God is ours because Jesus Christ has restored us to God by his life, death, and resurrection.
Let's enjoy the peace we have with one another by greeting each other here this morning.

[How He Loves](#)

// Benediction //

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:13

L: Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Pre-Service Prayer//

O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that
with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

L: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

C: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!

L: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, we will sing praises to you among the nations.

C: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

—based on Psalm 108:1-4

[In Christ Alone](#)

[Our Great God](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Dear Heavenly Father, you are the God from whom all mercy flows, by whom all grace is given, and for whom all things exist. We acknowledge we have more than sufficient reasons to overflow with gratitude and thanksgiving. For the free gift of salvation in Jesus, we adore you. For the secure gift of citizenship in heaven, we worship you. For the multiplied gifts of providence and relationships, we bless you. Yet too easily we complain, murmur, and grumble. We grieve our attitudes of presumption, entitlement, and selfishness.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord. Have mercy on me.

L: We mourn our habits of prayerlessness, criticism, and gossip.

C: By grace, we repent and ask you to forgive and change us, Father.

L: In Jesus' name and for his glory we pray. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

L: Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

[There is a Peace](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

- John 13:34

[Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

// Benediction //

L: Now that you have been reminded of the Gospel of God's grace, enjoy it, remind yourself of it, and share it with others.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Scripture to Meditate On:

Acts 22:17-21

[17] "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance [18] and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' [19] And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. [20] And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' [21] And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Quote to Consider:

Quote from

"Jesus beckons me to follow him to that place of weakness where I risk the vulnerability of a child so that I might know how strong my Father is and how much he loves me. But truth be told, I would rather be an adult. I'd rather be in a place where I can still pull things together if God doesn't show up, where I risk no ultimate humiliation, where I don't have to take the shallow breaths of desperation. And as a result, my experience of my heavenly Father is simply impoverished." - Gary Haugen, *Just Courage*

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Prayer of Confession* we asked for God's mercy and said, "We grieve our attitudes of presumption, entitlement, and selfishness." Where do you see each of those in your life? Which one do you see the most of? What is that sin usually attached to? (ie- possession, thing, person, idea, hope, dream, etc.) Why do you think that is?
- In the sermon on Sunday, Pastor Ryan stressed that our God is faithful and good and that he is present with us. The analogy was given of our God being a Father in a pool and of us being asked to jump from the edge into His arms. In what areas of your life do most often choose to be safe and in control rather than be brave and trust that loving Father is present with us?
- Sit down with someone and ask them to share their story of how they came to faith in Christ. Then share yours with them. (If you've never shared your story, take a few minutes to write it out - Help to write out your story: [Your Story is God's Story: Creating Your Testimony](#) by Cru)
- What makes you most apprehensive about telling others about your faith in Jesus?
- In what ways do the promises and presence of Jesus give you hope in the midst of the calling to be a missionary where you are (in your neighborhood, on your street, with your co-workers, etc. anywhere you have relationships with those who don't yet have faith in Jesus)?

Suggested Resources

Articles: [Being Family: Gospel Saturation Around the Globe](#) by Dave Miles

[Everyday Mission pt1](#) by Ben Connelly

[Tools to Connect with Others Over the Summer](#) by Steve McCoy

Videos: [Work and Mission](#) Saturate the World

[How Sharing the Gospel in a Secular Age is Different](#) with Tim Keller

Books: [Tangible Kingdom Primer](#) by Hugh Halter and Matt Smay

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Resource: [The Bible App for Kids](#) (download it and pick a story and read it together!)

[New City Catechism, Question 30](#)

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Read together:

Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Questions for Kids

- What do you hear Jesus telling us to do in those verses?
- What are some things we could do to "make disciples"?
- Why is it important that Jesus says he has "all authority"?
- When you hear Jesus say "surely I am with you always", why is that good news for us as we go out and share the gospel with others?
- Who do we know that we could share the good news about Jesus with?

Pray

God, you are so good to us. Thank you for our church family. Thank you also for saving us by the work of Jesus. We ask your help to share the gospel with others. We pray for _____, _____, and _____. Open their hearts to the good news and give us lots of opportunities to spend time with them and love them. Thanks for always being with us and promising that you will change hearts through us. We love you God! Amen.

Sermon Review [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Title: Promise-Based Mission

Text: [Acts 21:27-23:11](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/promise-based-mission/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Overview:

If you've ever been on vacation with little ones you've probably had this experience- your three year old stands at the edge of the pool, no floaties or vest on, you're chest deep in the water, hands out and say, "Go ahead, jump!" They respond with a hesitant, "You'll catch me, right?" "Of course I will", you respond. Depending on the child you may go through that reassurance a couple more times, but eventually they take you up on the offer and plunge in.

My question for you to consider is- What makes that child go for it? I would suggest two things: Promise and Presence. They have the promise that you'll catch them and they have your presence with them.

We are a lot like that child on the edge of the pool when it comes to the mission of God. We wonder if we “plunge in”, will God meet us there. If we go across the street or across the hall to build a relationship with a neighbor or coworker will he be there to carry us through? If we open our mouth to help a friend or neighbor know about Jesus will he give us the words? Will he open their hearts to hear the good news or will it fall flat?

Much like the child on the edge of the pool we have two things to cling to- God's promise and God's presence.

Sermon Summary: The Mission of God rests on the *promise* and *presence* of God

In Acts 21-23 we find some strong opponents of Paul getting a mob of people riled up and beating him within an inch of his life. It's such a violent scene that the Roman authorities assume he is a terrorist. These religious opposers to the message of God's grace are not just wanting to win a debate, they want to murder Paul, and they come very close. If it wasn't for the Romans rescuing him twice from the angry mob they would have killed him.

The scene begs the question- “What would make this mob so angry that they would be convinced they need to murder the Apostle Paul?” As usual, it's the message of God's grace towards outsiders, but more specifically the idea that gentiles could become God's people without becoming Jews. Proselytism was fine (Gentiles converting to Judaism), but gospel evangelism (Gentiles becoming Christians without becoming Jews first) was tremendously offensive to them. It meant that everyone, Jew or Gentile, had the same status with God and both needed repentance and faith in Jesus to be God's people (or to be saved). Paul's message to the Jewish people that they needed to be saved was not welcomed. Even less welcomed was the message that God told him to move on from the Jews because they wouldn't listen and go to the Gentiles.

The Jews had the law, whose purpose was to show them they had no righteousness and needed a righteousness they couldn't create in themselves. The law should have lead them to receive Jesus as their savior and righteousness. Instead they cling to their own righteousness and believe that they are God's people because of their adherence to the law and good works.

In chapter 22 Paul is permitted to speak to the angry mob. Notice his approach as it is very helpful to us as we look to *plunge* into the pool of God's mission.

Establishes Commonality

Paul doesn't start by distancing himself from the crowd, rather he puts himself in the crowd, as one of them. He speaks their language (v.2), showing them respect and willingness to step into their culture rather than making them change and step into his. Secondly he calls them “Brothers and Fathers” and describes himself as exactly like them. He is a Jew from birth, he has studied under the foremost Jewish scholar, he shares their same zeal for the law, and was the biggest opponent of the church previously. He says all this to say, “I've been there, I get it! You guys aren't crazy.” In other words, he makes a connection with those he is going to share the gospel with, not setting himself above them, but rather next to them.

Tells His Story

Paul gives a defense or *apologia* to this crowd who wants to kill him (22:6-11), but it's not what you might think. It's not some theological defense, rather it's the story of how he came to have faith in Jesus. The use of story is so powerful because it allows those listening to connect to the truths of the gospel. Paul has already stated how he is just like them, now he tells them that he came to realize that Jesus was the

Messiah. As he connected with them by stating he was in their same shoes, he now hopes they will connect with him- seeing how Jesus could be their Messiah as well. As we plunge into God's mission we are armed with our story. Whatever it may be, if you have faith in Jesus you have a story that God uses to speak to others. God is active! He is still working and your story communicates that to others and invites them into God's story of redemption.

God Appointed Him to Witness

Part of Paul's story is that he was commissioned by God to be a witness to the good news of the Gospel. The connection Paul makes is that salvation is not just something that is for him personally and that's it. Rather, he is sharing his story with them because this is the work to which God has called him. Becoming a Christian means also being a witness. Faith and commissioning go together. Paul is not a special Christian in that sense, just a normal everyday Christian, one who has been saved by grace and is a messenger of the good news!

All Are Welcomed By God

This is the last straw for the angry crowd. In 22:17-21 Paul tells this Jewish crowd that God sent him away from the Jews to the Gentiles. Basically, Paul is telling them that what is taking place was God's doing. The prophecy would be fulfilled in that moment as the crowd became extremely violent and the Romans had to once again step in and save Paul, removing him from the angry crowd by force and taking him back to the barracks. The reason they are so angry is because Paul is telling them God is pursuing another people. That is terribly offensive to them as they think they have the corner on knowing God.

Conclusion: The Freeing Hope of Promise and Presence

The presence and promise of Jesus in 23:11 overshadow this account and the entire life of the Apostle Paul - The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome" (Acts 23:11). There we have both the *PROMISE* and *PRESENCE* of Jesus. Paul is in a cold dark prison cell, the mission of God looks bleak, but Jesus is standing right with him and gives him a promise- he will testify in Rome. That means he will not die there in Jerusalem. What a great encouragement that must have been to Paul.

Although you may have never seen or heard Jesus in that way, we do have his words of promise and presence from Matthew 28:17-18

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

We often only hear "Go, therefore" and feel the weight of something we *must* do apart from the words of Jesus that surround it. What surrounds that statement is a promise (All authority has been given to me) and presence (I am with you always). With those words we can "go". We can *plunge* into the pool of mission. Why? Because we know God has full control of the results (He has "all authority") and we won't be alone but have his very presence with us ("I am with you always").

When we are afraid to share the gospel where do we turn? To his promise. When we don't think we can do anything that will affect the hearts of people where do we turn? To his promise. When we aren't sure if engaging with those who don't know Jesus will be worth it, what is our hope? That Jesus is with us. So plunge in! He is faithful. Amen.