

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, July 15, 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 \(and Parents\)](#)
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PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

This Sunday is VBS Sunday! We'll get to hear the kids sing the songs they learned this week.

// Pre-Gathering Prayer//

Heavenly Father, 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 //

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his

Congregation: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

Congregation: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

—Psalm 100

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Dear heavenly Father, we praise you for being the God from whom all blessings flow; the Judge who declared us righteous in Christ; and the Lord now working in all things for our good. In response to such incredible grace and love, we gladly take the low place of humility and confession.

Forgive us for caring more about people's approval than cherishing your acceptance.

Congregation: Forgive us for being quick to judge others and slow to forgive them. Forgive us for scheduling ourselves into exhaustion and bad attitudes.

Leader: Father, teach us how to live and love at the pace of grace.

In Christ's name, we confess our sins and offer our prayer. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.

God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.

Receive the forgiving love of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

// Passing of the Peace //

The good news of the gospel is that we've been restored to God and to one another. Through Jesus we have been adopted and made a family. We are Brothers and sisters who all share the hope of resurrection with Christ. Take a moment to greet one another as family here this morning.

// Benediction //

Leader: As you go from this place, remember, you are the beloved children of God. He is in you and is going to speak through you to those around you. Go with confidence in our great God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

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

// Pre-Gathering Prayer//

Loving God, for each one who leads us in worship today,
we pray that being filled with your Spirit,
they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do.
We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with us
and be drawn to bring you all honor and praise. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

God, mark us with grace and blessing! Smile!

The whole country will see how you work, all the godless nations see how you save.

God! Let people thank and enjoy you. Let all people thank and enjoy you.

Let all far-flung people become happy and shout their happiness because

You judge them fair and square, you tend the far-flung peoples.

God! Let people thank and enjoy you. Let all people thank and enjoy you.

Earth, display your exuberance!

You mark us with blessing, O God, our God. You mark us with blessing, O God.

Earth's four corners—honor him!

—*Paraphrase of Psalm 67*

[One Day \(When We All Get to Heaven\)](#)

[Our Great God](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious,
filled with mercy and steadfast love, we are embarrassed to come before you,
for we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways, for we have rebelled against your wisdom
and we have gotten into trouble, for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether.
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord,
and to us open shame.

O Lord, great God,
all holy, filled with awe,
Father, most gracious,
filled with mercy and steadfast love,
incline your ear to our troubles.

Congregation: Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.
Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness,
but on the ground of your great mercy.

Leader: On the ground of your great mercy
in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.
It is in his name that we pray,
for he is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen.
—based on Daniel 9:4-19

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

[Rock of Ages](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

God has extended peace to us by atoning for our sin and reconciling us to himself. As the family of God, let's
extend peace to one another by greeting each other here this morning.

[In Christ Alone](#)

// Benediction //

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and
how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen.
-Romans 11:33

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

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

Scripture to Meditate On:

Acts 27:20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

Quote to Consider:

"...whereas human love, for all its power in other ways, cannot ensure that what is desired for the beloved will actually happen (as multitudes of star-crossed lovers and heartbroken parents know), divine love is a function of omnipotence, and has at its heart an almighty purpose to bless which cannot be thwarted." J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* pg. 275

Reflection Questions:

- Every Sunday we have an 'Assurance of Pardon', a declaration that we are indeed forgiven by God and loved by God because of what Jesus did for us. Do you find it difficult to receive the forgiving love of God? Do you find yourself wanting to "make up" for your failings some other way (doing good, beating yourself up, punishing yourself, etc.)? Why is receiving God's forgiving love without condition difficult for you?
- Often our first inclination in a storm is to be fearful or be anxious and only later are we reminded of God's promises. What storms have you been through this past year that had you reaching to God's Word to be reminded about His promises to His people?
- The Bible is filled with God's promises of love, of nearness, of blessing, and of salvation. Are there specific verses that you have found yourself consistently clinging to over the last month or year?
- Who do you know that is in need of the promises of God to give them strength? Ask God to lead you to a verse to share with them today.

Suggested Resources

Articles: [The Dark Night of the Soul](#) by Steve Brown
[Trusting in God's Providence in a Time of Turmoil](#) by Elyse Fitzpatrick
[When the Prodigal Son Relapses](#) by Chad Bird
[How Do I Know I'm a Christian](#) by Chad Bird

Devotionals: [Resting on the Promises](#) Ligonier Ministries

Books: [What is Reformed Theology](#) by RC Sproul

1 Minute Thought- ["Laughter"](#) by Steve Brown

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

Video: [Control, A Gospel Principle for Parents](#) with Paul Tripp

[New City Catechism - Question 52](#)

Q: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

A: It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

Read together:

Set it up: Tell the story of Paul on the ship- that there were people trying to put him in jail or kill him because he was telling people that Jesus was the Savior and headed to Rome to be at the highest court in front of a guy named Caesar. Paul is really interested in telling more people about Jesus. The ship that Paul and Luke are on with other prisoners is on the verge of sinking and if that happens they will all die.

Acts 27:21–26

[21] Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. [22] Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. [23] For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, [24] and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ [25] So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. [26] But we must run aground on some island.”

Questions for Kids

- What promises has God made to us?
- Where can we find the promises of God?
- How can the promises of God give you hope in sadness and struggle?

Pray

Lord, sometimes our faith is weak. We need you to make us strong. Help us to hear your promises and really believe them. Help us to receive them and live by them. May we also encourage others with your promises when they are sad or struggling. Thank you for always loving us and being near to us. We love you God! Amen.

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

Title: Promise in the Storm

Text: [Acts 27](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/promise-in-the-storm/>

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

Q: What will carry you through the storm?

A: Faith in the promise

In Acts 27 Paul and Luke are a ship sailing to Rome, but there is a problem. Sailing in the Mediterranean in the fall and winter is very dangerous because intense hurricane-like storms come through. In the midst of that storm, they've thrown out cargo, they've added straps to keep the ship together, they haven't eaten, they haven't seen the sun (meaning they are lost since the sun is how they get direction), and verse 20 tells us that they give up hope of being saved. But then Paul shares with them that an Angel has told him that everyone on the ship will live, but the ship will be destroyed. Interestingly, the angel addresses Paul by saying “Do not be afraid.” That may not seem significant, but remember Paul already had a promise from Jesus that he will testify in Rome (Acts 23:11). So why is he afraid?!? He has the promise from Jesus! Well, the truth is, this is how faith works. We have the promise and are confident in it one minute but then circumstances come and we become quite forgetful and fearful. And Jesus in his kindness comes and gives us another dose of the promise to reassure our wavering hearts.

Take us for instance, you and I, we have the promise that God will save us on account of Christ and we are quite confident in that until we come face to face with our sin yet again. What happens when we realize we are more needy of Christ's righteousness than we like to think? Well, when we see our own ability to shore up our sin and create a righteousness of our own isn't working we start to freak out, fear God won't save us and hide in shame. Whether it's our uncertainty that God would save someone like us or our belief that God has abandoned us amidst the difficulties of life, either way, what we need is the same. We need to hear the promises of our good and faithful God once again. Promises like Romans 8:38-39 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-19. And when we hear those promises, God reassures our hearts. He builds our faith. He renews us in His covenant love. And we can then do what the passengers aboard that ship with Paul did - gather around the table, give thanks to God, break bread and feast together. And then take all the remaining food on board and chuck it over the edge. After all, the promise said you'll be on shore soon, so you won't be needing it!

Now you have a ship full of people living according to the promise. They had to go through the storm and through the shipwreck, but the promise proved true. And once again, God is faithful. Amen.