

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 8, 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-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

// 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.

// 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, lets
extend peace to one another by greeting each other here this morning.

// 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!

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

// Pre-Service Prayer//

O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.

—based on Ephesians 3:18-19

// Call to Worship //

Leader: Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;

Praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;

praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise him with resounding cymbals.

Congregation: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

- from Psalm 150

[Heart of Worship](#)

[10,000 Reasons](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.

You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you.

Congregation: Forgive our sins,

and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: To all those that repent of their sin and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation, I declare that all your sin is forgiven. You have been made made clean by the blood of the lamb, Jesus Christ himself. Now stop living like God is fed up with you and enjoy him as he is fully pleased with you and loves you with a love unending. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Amen.

[The Wonderful Cross](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

The peace we have in Jesus Christ is not just an idea or abstract, it is a living peace that we can enjoy everyday. Jesus has restored us to God and to one another, so... Let's take a moment to enjoy the peace we have by greeting one another this morning.

Sermon: [The Power and Persistence of Divine Love](#)

[How Deep the Father's Love For Us](#)

// Benediction //

Leader: The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you now and forevermore. Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

Scripture to Meditate On:

Acts 26:16–17 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you

Quote to Consider:

“Also, when God saved us, He made us members of his household, and gave us as gifts to one another. Each brother and sister is a portion of my gospel inheritance from God and I am a portion of their inheritance as well. We are significant players in each other’s gospel narrative, and it is in relationship with one another that we experience the fullness of God in Christ.”

- Milton Vincent, [A Gospel Primer](#)

Reflection Questions:

- In our Call to Worship we read from Psalm 150 which says- Praise him for his acts of power, praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. What do you have to praise God for today? How can you make praising God part of your regular rhythm of life?
- Paul says that Jesus said to him, “It’s hard for you to keep kicking against the goads”, meaning he was fighting against Jesus ministry to him. Have you ever felt like (or do you currently feel like) you are fighting against Jesus? Describe that. If you have never felt this, take time to consider if you are being honest about your feelings and responses to life circumstances. If you’ve never had conflict with Jesus, is it a real relationship?
- Pastor Ryan read from [Romans 7:7-9](#) where Paul says that the law showed him his sin like nothing else could, and then continued to haunt him with how prevalent his covetous was. Do you find this to be the case in your life? Have you tried to make your heart stop loving or yearning for something and been unsuccessful? What is our hope for change in those moments?
- Hospitality is part of the gospel. How can you begin to show hospitality to both those in our church family and those who aren’t?

Suggested Resources

Articles: [Making Room](#) with Christine Pohl

[Intentional Life: Extending the Hospitality of Christ](#) by Craig VanDixhoorn

[A Meal Says More Than You Think](#) by Jonathan Leeman

Devotionals: [Let Love Continue](#) Ligonier Ministries

Audio: [The Gospel Comes With A House Key: Rosaria Butterfield Interview](#) on Steve Brown, Etc.
[God's Hospitality and Grace](#) The White Horse Inn Interview with Kelly Kapic, author of [God So Loved. He Gave: Entering the Movement of Divine Generosity](#)

Video: [How Radically Ordinary Hospitality Changed Rosaria Butterfield's Life](#) by Crossway

Books: [The Gospel Comes With a House Key](#) by Rosaria Butterfield
[A Meal With Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission Around the Table](#) by Tim Chester

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

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

Article:

[Hospitality with Young Kids is Worth it](#) by Devi Duermeier

[New City Catechism - Question 7](#)

What does the law of God require?

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

Read together:

Explain to your kids that this was Jesus talking to the Apostle Paul (the guy who wrote most of the New Testament) after Paul was knocked to the ground and a bright light shone around him.

Acts 26:16–17 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you

Questions for Kids

- ✦ Jesus appointed Paul to be a servant and a witness, but that's not for the Apostle Paul, that's for all Christians. How do you think our family can be servants and a witness? How can you be a witness among your friends? How can you love them like Jesus love us?
- ✦ How do you know God loves you? (because he made me, because he sent Jesus to die for my sins, etc.) Do you ever think about how God loves you? When are you reminded that he loves you?

Pray

Loving God, we thank you that you are our Father. We thank you that you have adopted us as your kids and you always love us. Help us to remember how much you love us. Help us also to show and tell other people about your love. We pray for *[names of people who don't know Jesus]*, we ask you to open their hearts to the good news about Jesus, and we ask you to help us love them like family. Thanks for forgiving our sins from today, help us to forgive each other. Thanks for Jesus our Savior! Amen.

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

Title: The Power and Persistence of Divine Love

Text: [Acts 26:14-18](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/the-power-and-persistence-of-divine-love/>

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

Acts 26 once again has the courtroom as it's setting. Paul is before King Agrippa as he responds to the reason for which the Jewish people believe he should be killed.

Sermon Summary: Divine Love is the most powerful force in the universe

This is the third time we have Paul recounting how he came to faith in Jesus in the book of Acts, but this time we get more of the words of Jesus when he addressed Paul than any other time he tells us this story, which makes this a really special section of text. Let's consider what we learn about Divine Gospel Love as we look at Paul's story.

1. Divine Love is a Persistent and Overtaking Love

This is the first time we hear Paul include the words from Jesus, "It is hard for you to kick against the goads" (v.14). A goad is a sharp stick used to keep oxen in line and on the right path. This sheds new light on what was going on in Paul before this point. Apparently Jesus had been 'prodding' or pursuing Paul in the midst of him persecuting the church. Verse 16 describes it further as Jesus tells Paul he is appointing him to be a witness to the things "in which you have seen me." Jesus is telling Paul that he has *already* seen him. But Paul must be thinking- "I've never seen you..." But Jesus is living in and through his people, the church, so everytime Paul interacted (persecuted, imprisoned, or killed) Christians he was interacting with Jesus (which is why Jesus says "Why are you persecuting ME"). The "goad" that sticks out the most (because Luke included it in its entirety) is the speech and stoning of Stephen. Paul was there, he approved of it, he saw the whole thing. But he wasn't just hearing Stephen, he was hearing Jesus. And what did Jesus say to Paul in that moment? "Do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60)

2. Divine Love is a Sending not merely Retaining Love

After Jesus sets his love upon Paul he doesn't just tell him to go read the scriptures and wait for him to wait for the world to end, rather, Jesus says Paul is now a witness and will be sent to proclaim the good news of the gospel. Quite a turn of events, considering Paul was literally on his way to persecute Christians, and then is met by Jesus and is then a messenger for Jesus.

3. Divine Love is a Complete not "First Installment" Love

You might wonder what has the Jewish people so angry with Paul. Good question. In Acts 26:6-7 Paul says that he is on trial because of his hope in the promise made by God which the twelve tribes hoped to attain. In other words, Paul is saying that being God's child is about God's promise to accomplish it for you (promise) and they are thinking it's about attaining through the law. Paul knew about how attaining through the law didn't work once he started to really consider what it was asking of your heart. He tells us in Romans 7 that once the law came and said "Do not covet" he realized that all he did was covet and couldn't stop himself. The law showed him his sin. It didn't help him be better, it made him worse! So attaining godliness through the law wasn't going to happen for Paul, he needed something else- the promise of God to forgive sin and provide a complete righteousness for us. And that's exactly what he describes in verse

18- the good news of the gospel is that Jesus opens your eyes, forgives your sin, delivers you, and cleanses (sanctifies) you. All that work, done by God, not us. Hallelujah!

4. Divine Love is an Adopting not Acquaintance Love

Verse 18 gives us one more beautiful gift from this Divine Gospel saturated love - a “place among”. Isn't that beautiful. In Jesus, God adopts us in and gives us a place. Now we can be fully known and completely loved. We were strangers and aliens and we have been made sons and daughters. And we have all the privileges of the first born son. Not just any first born son, though, the perfectly righteous, perfectly loving, perfectly obeying first born Son, Jesus Christ himself!

Now, as God's children we are sent to display this same adopting love through our hospitality to each other and our neighbors. Our homes can become a place of ministry. Our table a place where gospel love is communicated through feasting together. Our fire pit a place where God is known through the careful listening, laughing, and crying with new friends. These aren't just fun activities, they are times of theological learning. The hospitality of the gospel is being learned and one day we pray they will hear Jesus tell them they are now going to be a witness to the “things in which you have seen me” and they'll think of those meals and see that Jesus was there with them living through the believers there. Who can you invite into your life this week? It's a step of faith, but Jesus will meet you there. You can trust him!