

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 to next Sunday. 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, November 4th, 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 [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

We will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
—from Psalm 9:1-2

// Call to Worship //

L: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
—Colossians 3:16

L: 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.

☞C: For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.☞
—from Psalm 86:8-10

// Prayer of Confession //

Father, you tell us in your Word☞ that whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.☞ We confess that we have frequently relaxed our faith. We have allowed ourselves to become cynical,☞ and our cynicism has boiled over☞ with slander, criticism, prayerlessness, and pessimism. How easily we've allowed ourselves ☞ to crumple under the stresses of our lives.☞ Forgive us for our smallness of faith.☞ In your mercy, hear us,☞ for Jesus' sake. Amen. ☞

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: The almighty God,
Who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
to die for all your sin, and live for all your righteousness
bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.

Congregation: Praise God, for He has been gracious to us!

// Passing of the Peace //

The peace of Christ be with you all today.

As people who are extremely thankful for the Jesus Christ giving us peace with God, let's take a moment and pass the peace of Christ to one another by greeting each other here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon (Pastor Robert Livingston)

// Benediction //

Go equipped by the grace of God and surrounded by salvation's walls. Let nothing shake your sure repose, for you have a sure foundation that nothing can shake, and that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

// Prayer of Preparation //

Most Gracious God, we come to you today with our brothers and sisters in Christ to hear from you. May you open our hearts and speak to us your divine word of grace. Dazzle us once again with your love and grace. In the name of Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

As we approach the season of advent, we're going to do something a little different and sing all hymns together. God's people have sung hymns in honor of the Almighty since the time of Moses and before. David sang the "new song" God gave him and taught others to sing "a hymn of praise to our God". Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together at the Last Supper. The early church sang hymns as part of their regular gatherings. Paul and Silas, with their feet in stocks in a Philippian jail, were "praying and singing hymns to God".

A hymn often includes the mingling of sorrow and joy, brokenness and hope, divine tenderness and sovereign majesty, beautiful poetry, and a tune that expresses all these things in both seriousness of emotion and exaltation of hope. Ephesians 5 says there's a connection between being filled with the spirit and singing "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." May our singing of hymns this morning be a natural overflow of the heart in fellowship with the Lord. Let's sing together of His great faithfulness!

[Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

[I Need Thee Every Hour](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Father, we come to you today, confessing that our fellowship hasn't been what it ought to be. Our sin has hindered us from enjoying meaningful and impactful relationships with one another.

We are suspicious of each other, saying, "She might use my self-disclosure against me"

We are manipulative, saying, "He has a way of making other people always bow to his desires."

We are petty, thinking, "I can't stand her; the way she talks about her kids is so annoying."

We are jealous, saying, "He had better enjoy the boss's good pleasure while it lasts."

We are self serving, wondering, "Why did I even sign up to volunteer?"

Congregation: We would rather compartmentalize our spiritual lives to an easy chair in the living room where no one will bother us than dive headfirst into messy relationships with other broken sinners like ourselves.

(from *Alive in Him* by Gloria Furman)

Leader: In your mercy and grace, forgive us for our sin and restore to us the joy of our salvation. In Christ we pray. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: While it is true that we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

[It Is Well](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

Ephesians 2:22 says this:

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

As the ones who together display to the world who God is, let's take a minute to enjoy the peace we have in Christ by greeting one another here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon- Love that Surpasses Knowledge, Ephesians 3:14-21, Pastor Ryan Stanley

// Benediction //

Leader: May our covenant God encompass you with the mysterious power of the Spirit of God and transform you to become more and more like Christ. Peace be with you.

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

Scripture to Meditate On:

Ephesians 3:19

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Message Summary of Eph 3:14-22

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

Heidelberg Catechism

Q & A #18

Q. Then who is this mediator—true God and at the same time a true and righteous human?

A: Our Lord Jesus Christ, ([Matt. 1:21-23](#); [Luke 2:11](#); [1 Tim. 2:5](#)) who was given to us to completely deliver us and make us right with God. ([1 Cor. 1:30](#))

Q&A #19

Q. How do you come to know this?

A. The holy gospel tells me. God began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; ([Gen. 3:15](#)) later God proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs (Gen. 22:18; 49:10) and prophets ([Isa. 53](#); [Jer. 23:5-6](#); [Mic. 7:18-20](#); [Acts 10:43](#); [Heb. 1:1-2](#)) and foreshadowed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; ([Lev. 1-7](#); [John 5:46](#); [Heb. 10:1-10](#)) and finally God fulfilled it through his own beloved Son. ([Rom. 10:4](#); [Gal. 4:4-5](#); [Col. 2:17](#))

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

Christianity vs. Evangelicalism

There is a huge difference between Christianity and much of Evangelicalism. Christianity defines the gospel as “Jesus Christ is God who assumed our flesh, lived a perfect life in our place under the law, fulfilled it perfectly, bore our debt for having broken the law, and then was raised the third day for our justification.” The whole gospel is completely about Jesus Christ and everything contained in that gospel happened between the years 1 to 33 AD [sic]. That gospel was finished in 33 AD and then it was proclaimed and it is still being proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

The Evangelical version of that is: no, the gospel really is, not just includes, but the gospel really is Jesus in my heart; my being born-again (it is not that the gospel brings about my new-birth), but the gospel is my new-birth. And therefore, the gospel is my moral transformation.

Brothers and sisters, if you hold that second view there is no reason at all for you to criticize the Medieval [Roman Catholic] church because the doctrine of justification for the Medieval church was, “What happens inside of you. Your sanctification.” This is what the whole Reformation was about, and why we need a second reformation.

-Adapted from Mike Horton, “God’s Story vs. Our Stories,” The White Horse Inn, June 14, 2009.

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Prayer of Confession* we confessed that we are often suspicious, petty, manipulative, jealous, and self-serving. Go back and review the prayer of confession and then ask yourself which of those you most often find in yourself. Ask the Lord if there is anyone you need to ask forgiveness from because of these sins. As you do remind yourself of the glorious gospel- that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, of which you are the foremost. (1 Tim 1:15)
- Suffering is often the place where we know of the love and actual presence of Christ like no other. When has suffering lead you to a deeper dependence upon Christ?
- Think through your life. When is a time you think Jesus was most absent. Take a moment to take a different view of that season of life and consider Jesus present throughout that season. What would he have been doing? How was he loving you in the midst of that?

Suggested Resources from last week

Devotional: [Seeing the Unseen](#) by Joy Cofield

Articles: [Meditations on the Cross of Christ](#) by Timothy Massaro
[You Are What You Love: Interview with James KA Smith](#) with Justin Taylor
[Five Ways to Have a Missional Thanksgiving](#) by Verge Network

******* Ephesians Series Resources *******

[Ephesians Scripture Journal](#) (available on Sundays for \$2)

[Alive in Him](#) by Gloria Furman (available on Sundays for \$5) and accompanying [Study Guide](#) and

Ephesians Resources from Bible Project: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/>

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

2-minute Video (because we know that's all the time you have) ;)

[Gospel Principles for Parenting: LOST](#) with Paul Tripp

Get the New City Catechism App: <http://newcitycatechism.com/mobile-apps/>

New City Catechism

Question #21

Q: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

A: One who is truly human and also truly God.

Question #22

Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

Read aloud together:

17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. **18** And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. **19** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- How can we be strong?
- What are two reasons the love of Jesus so amazing to you?
- When did Jesus start loving you?
- When will Jesus stop loving you?
- Are there times you need the love of Jesus to love your brother/sister/friends? How can the love of Jesus help you love them?

Prayer

God we are really thankful for today. We had everything we needed today and you were with us all day long. We want to know more and more about the love of Jesus. Help us to really know more about Jesus and how much he loves us. Then we pray that his love would give us joy and thankfulness in our hearts. Thanks for loving us no matter what Jesus! Amen.

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

Title: "Love That Surpasses Knowledge"

Text: [Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/love-that-surpasses-knowledge/>

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

Is there more to the Christian life than knowledge? We often think we need to choose between knowledge and experience, but Paul has another option as he prays for the church in the second half of Ephesians 3. Paul prays for Christians that they would "know the love of Christ." That seems like a pretty odd thing to pray for people who are Christians doesn't it? But look at Paul's language, he's talking about more than simple a cognitive affirmation of the facts of the life of Jesus. He is praying that the information we know about Jesus, that he loved us and saved us when we were "dead in our trespasses and sins" (2:1) and "children of wrath" (2:3), would make our hearts explode with amazement and affection for him.

There is a step Paul hopes God grants us and that is where the information of the gospel moves from our head to our hearts. And how will that happen? Through meditating upon the love of Christ. Christian meditation is the practice of allowing the head to descend into the heart. Paul gives us a beautiful example of this as prays we would know the "the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." The people he is praying for know about the love of Christ, but he wants them to know it's breadth, length, height, and depth!

Take some time to consider these. How wide is the love of Christ? How long is it? How high is it? How deep is it? As you consider these think of your story. Think of how throughout your life God has been showing you his expansive love season after season, year after year. There have been some tough times, there have been some times of celebration. Now look at those seasons with new eyes. Ask the question- "What was I learning about God in that season?" And listen to the sweet whisper of the voice of Jesus tell you how much he loves you all over again. He'll never leave you nor forsake you. He is committed to pouring his unfathomable love on you for the rest of your life and then eternity. What a Savior! Amen.