

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

// Prayer of Preparation //

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: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has worked wonders,
whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

Congregation: The Lord has made known salvation;
has shown justice to the nations;
has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel.

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Congregation: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing out your joy.

Leader: Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.

Congregation: With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.

—based on Psalm 98:1-6

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Lord, Jesus, help us to believe with our whole lives that apart from You we can do nothing.

Congregation: We struggle with fear and anxiety when trials come. We battle sin and unbelief and often give in to temptation.

Leader: Show us daily that we can bring everything to You.

Congregation: In our confession of sins, remind us of Your grace and mercy.

Leader: Help us to believe in the truth of Your work on our behalf, Your death and sacrifice on the cross for our sins, giving us life and righteousness.

Congregation: Cause us to believe in You and help us to live lives that are dependent upon You, knowing that we find our hope and satisfaction only in You. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

All the prophets testify about Christ
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name.
—from Acts 10:43

// Passing of the Peace //

In Christ our souls have peace. Jesus said that his yoke was easy and his burden was light. As people of peace, let's pass the peace of Christ by greeting one another here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon (Pastor Robert Livingston)

// Benediction //

Leader: 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)

Have a great week, and peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

// Prayer of Preparation //

Father of glory,

May you give us the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of yourself this morning.

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know the hope to which you have called us,

Remind us that we are your inheritance and brings you great joy.

Remind us that all the greatness of your power is ours right now as your resurrected people.

Nourish our faith this morning we pray, Amen.

-based on Ephesians 1:17–19

// Call to Worship //

Isaiah 55:1–2

“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

[Come Thou Fount](#)

[God With Us](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Psalm 24:3-4 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Colossians 1:21-22
And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (ESV)

[All I Have is Christ](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

Ephesians 2:17-19
And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

[O For A Thousand Tongues](#)

Sermon- Ephesians 3:1-13, The Angels Stand Amazed

Communion

[Here is Love](#)

[This is Amazing Grace](#)

// Benediction //

Leader: Church, you have ALL the blessings of God in Christ. God is not a distant deity, he is your Father. Enjoy all the blessings of God and invite others to do the same.

As you do, may the Peace of Christ be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

Scripture to Meditate On:

Ephesians 3:10

“...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #90

Q. *What is the rising-to-life of the new self?*

A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ [Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa. 57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17](#)

and a love and delight to live

according to the will of God

by doing every kind of good work. [Rom. 6:10-11; Gal. 2:20](#)

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

“Of the Catholic (Universal) Church”

We believe and profess one catholic or universal Church, which is a holy congregation of true Christian believers, all expecting their salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by His blood, sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

This Church has been from the beginning of the world, and will be to the end thereof; which is evident from this that Christ is an eternal King, which without subjects He cannot be. And this holy Church is preserved or supported by God against the rage of the whole world; though it sometimes for a while appears very small, and in the eyes of men to be reduced to nothing; as during the perilous reign of Ahab the Lord reserved unto Him seven thousand men who had not bowed their knees to Baal.

Furthermore, this holy Church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or to certain persons, but is spread and dispersed over the whole world; and yet is joined and united with heart and will, by the power of faith, in one and the same Spirit.

(The Belgic Confession, Article 27)

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Call to Worship* we read from Isaiah 55- “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” How does that point us to Jesus and the gospel?
- What is the significance of the relationship between *REVELATION* and *RESPONSIBILITY*? What does that mean for us as Jesus’ church?
- Do you have friendships with other Christians who don't think like you on certain issues? If so, how does your relationship with them help you understand more about God’s character and love? If you don't have these type of relationships why do you think that is? Pray that God would lead you to such mutually enriching relationships.
- What things is the world desperate for which can only be found in the church?

Suggested Resources from last week

Devotional: [Christian Unity](#) by Ligonier Ministries

Articles: [Review of Why Can't We Be Friends by Aimee Byrd](#) by Anna Smith

[First Family Outside the Home](#) by David Vandrunen

[How Should the Church Look?](#) By Modern Reformation

[Why We Need Community](#) by Matt Schneider

Podcast: [Unity and Diversity in the Body of Christ](#) White Horse Inn

******* 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: PROCESS](#) with Paul Tripp

Parenting Article: [My Child, My Neighbor, and the Church](#) by Anna Ilona Mussmann

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

New City Catechism Question #48

Q: What is the church?

A: God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

Read aloud together:

Ephesians 3:9–10 (NLT)

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- How do you think people can see God's wisdom in the church?
- Why do you think this is amazing to the Angels?
- Who does God love? Then who should we love?

Prayer

Loving God, Thank you for our church. Thank you for everyone who makes up our church. Help us to love one another even though we are different. Help us to appreciate each others differences. Give me someone at the church that our family can show love to this week. And we ask for many more people who don't know Jesus to come be part of our church so they can know Jesus. Thanks for your awesome love, God! Amen.

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

Title: “Angels Stand Amazed”

Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/the-angels-stand-amazed/>

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

In Chapter 3 of Ephesians, Paul begins a prayer, but then abruptly stops and takes a short detour. He picks up the prayer again in v.14, but before that spends a few moments pastoring the church. Listen to his heart in verse 13, “So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.” He wants to reassure this church that his suffering is not *because* of them, but rather, it is *for* them.

His suffering is because he is proclaiming the good news that was revealed to him- Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (3:6). This means that Jews are no closer to God than Gentiles, but all who are *in Christ* are God’s family. And they are not only God’s family, they have a purpose (v.9). That purpose is to show the amazing unity found in Christ. A unity that is not built on affinity, opinions, income bracket, family heritage, or political party, but rather on the need for a savior and that savior being Jesus Christ. That is the deepest human need (to be reconnected to God in Christ) and therefore that creates the deepest bond. It’s an amazing picture of the love of God as those near and those far off are brought into the family.

Such an amazing picture that the angels see the manifold wisdom of God like they’ve never seen before! Think about that for a minute- they have seen God and existed with him. We would assume they have seen the height of the glory of God and know of his glory more than any other being. But Paul says that the church shows something of God’s glory and wisdom that the Angels never knew. As John Stott put it- “The church is the graduate school for Angels”

It might be akin to the experience of walking into the Sistine Chapel. You are aware of great paintings. You know people paint murals. But when you walk in and see the artistic display in the Sistine Chapel you can barely comprehend it. That’s what the angels feel when they look at the diverse church all unified in Jesus Christ.

So go dazzle the angels. Love the people of our church, the young ones, the old ones, the inbetween ones. Gather around the table together and proclaim how you are all really the same- needy people for whom God has provided Christ. Eat, laugh, and enjoy one another. Carry one another’s burdens. Forgive one another- over and over and over again. And do it all in the unifying name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.