

# 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, December 2nd, 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 wait for you, Lord. Help our hearts stay focussed on you. Help our hearts yearn for your coming and your forever presence. Fill us with joy this morning for you are in our midst. We love you God! Amen.

### // Call to Worship //

The New City Catechism ([newcitycatechism.com](http://newcitycatechism.com))

*Question 21*

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

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

*Question 22*

Leader: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

All: 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.

*Question 23*

Leader: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

All: That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

[O Come, All Ye Faithful](#)

[Angels from the Realms of Glory](#)

### // Prayer of Confession //

☒Leader: Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us.

All: We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.

Leader: We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

All: Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.

Leader: Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

**// Assurance of Pardon //**

Leader: Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility, will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

All: Praise God, we are forgiven!

[Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee](#)

**// Passing of the Peace //**

The Advent season is the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace. Doesn't peace sound like a great thing? Our world desperately needs it, and we know the only source- Jesus Christ himself. Let's take a couple minutes to pass the peace of Christ to one another by greeting each other this morning.

**// Lighting of Advent Candle //**

The Lord will give you a sign.  
A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.  
And they shall name him Immanuel,  
which means "God is with us."

—from Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

ALL: Praise God, for He is faithful and will come and be among us!

*Pastoral Prayer and Offering*

*Sermon- Advent Week #2*

[Emmanuel \(Hallowed Manger Ground\)](#)

**// Benediction //**

Leader: Be watchful. God is in our midst. Maybe not in the ways you might think. Look for him in the humble and mundane. It is there that you'll see his compassion and love.

Merry Christmas and Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

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

### // Pre-Service Prayer//

Heavenly Father, the truth is we come un-prepared this morning. We haven't thought about your glory and goodness. We haven't quieted our hearts and stilled our minds. We have been running around like crazy people. Would you do for us what we failed to do for ourselves? Would you quiet our hearts to receive from you and open our ears to hear you? Prepare us to be a blessing to others here in our church family. May we minister to one another. For your glory, Amen.

### // Call to Worship //

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his Word I hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
There is no darkness with you, O Lord.  
O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plenteous redemption.  
There is no darkness with you, O Lord.  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
There is no darkness with you, O Lord.  
—based on Psalm 130:5-7

[Joy to the World \(unspeakable Joy\)](#)

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

### // Prayer of Confession //

Leader: O promised Christ:  
We are a world at war.  
Our peace depends on your coming.

All: We are a sinful people.  
Our pardon depends on your coming.

Leader: We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;  
our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.  
Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace,  
for your pardon, and for your grace.

All: Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

### // Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Your sins are pardoned.  
The penalty is paid.

All: Thanks be to God.

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

[He Has Come For Us \(God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen\)](#)

**// Passing of the Peace //**

There is continual signs of the need for peace in our world. Every leader or program that promises peace has been unable to produce it. May the good news of the coming Christ be heard this Advent season- "Jesus is our peace!"

Let's take a moment to enjoy the peace of Christ by greeting one another here this morning.

**// Sermon //**

*Advent Week #1*

**//Communion//**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[A Day of Glory](#)

**// Benediction //**

Leader: As you wait upon the Christ this week, wait with anticipation, with with confidence; for He who promised is faithful. Jesus has come. He is your savior. And it's because of Him that I can leave you with this sending- "Go in Peace, the Lord be with you"

C: And Also with you!

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

**Scripture to Meditate On:**

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

**Heidelberg Catechism**

Q & A 35

Q: *What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?*

A: That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God,<sup>1</sup>

took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,<sup>2</sup>

from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,<sup>3</sup>

a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant,<sup>4</sup>

like his brothers and sisters in every way<sup>5</sup> except for sin.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [John 1:1; 10:30-36; Acts 13:33 \(Ps. 2:7\); Col. 1:15-17; 1 John 5:20](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Luke 1:35](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Matt. 1:18-23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14](#)

<sup>4</sup> [2 Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Matt. 1:1; Rom. 1:3](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:17](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27](#)

Q & A 36

*Q: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?*

A. He is our mediator<sup>1</sup> and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:13-15](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Rom. 8:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19](#)

### **This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:**

*Catechisms*- A catechism is a popular manual of instruction (Gr. katecheo, to instruct) in Christian beliefs, normally in question and answer form.

With the Reformation an explosion of catechism production took place, with many a Lutheran pastor compiling his own... by far the most influential was Luther's Small Catechism of 1529. Espousing the principle of habituation by verbal repetition, it represented a partial shift of conviction in Luther from the freedom of word and spirit to discipline and regulation. He had no doubt of its significance: "I have brought about such a change that nowadays a girl or boy of fifteen knows more about Christian doctrine than all the theologians of the great universities used to know." He was happy to remain forever "a child and a disciple of the catechism."

Catechisms were anti-Roman from the outset. From around 1530 a catechism for the young was regarded as a salient mark of the reform movement's break with the past and was regularly one of the first innovations of reformed states and cities. The Heidelberg Catechism of 1563, has had the widest appeal of all Reformation catechisms along with the Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647), though lengthy, it is distinctive in presenting only one-line answers.

(From Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, Second Edition, s.v. "catechism")

### **Reflection Questions:**

- In our *Call to Worship* we sad- "For with the Lord there is steadfast love..." What reminds you that God loves you with a steadfast (never ending, always pursuing) love? When do you most feel that?
- Why do you think Luke includes the account of the promised birth of John the Baptist in his gospel?
- Why do you think God took so long to bring Jesus into the world? What things do you think God needed to establish before Jesus came?
- Why did Jesus have to come as a baby? What is the significance of that?

### **Suggested Resources from last week:**

Articles: [The Absurdity of Advent](#) by Donavon Riley

Video: [The Incarnation](#) by Odd Thomas (spoken word)

### **\*\*\*\*\*LENT DEVOTIONALS\*\*\*\*\***

[Seasons](#) by Village Church

[Advent: The Whole Story](#) by Paul Tripp

Advent Exercise: [A Passover Meal Experience](#) by Brad Watson

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

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

[Grace-Based Parenting: The Power of Parental Patience](#) with Paul Tripp

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

### New City Catechism

*Question 23*

Q: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A: That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

### FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

*Read aloud together:*

Luke 1:26–33

[26] In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [30] And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- Why would God have Jesus born to a woman who wasn't married?
- What do you think Jesus was like as a baby? (stress that he was just a normal baby like any other baby, reference a baby brother/sister/cousin/niece/nephew/friend/etc.)
- Why are happy that Jesus came to earth?

*Prayer*

God, we thank you so much that Jesus has come! He is our savior and we love him so much. We really can't believe he came as a baby, just like all other babies. But we also know that he wasn't just another baby because he was going to be the kind of the world! Thank you for our Jesus! God, would you help us know how to invite other people- neighbors and friends to celebrate Jesus with us? We want EVERYONE to know that Jesus came for them. Thanks God. Amen.

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

**Title:** “Announcing the King”

**Text:** Luke ch.1-2

**Watch:** <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/advent-week-1-announcing-the-king/>

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

Advent is all about waiting. I know, what a great marketing campaign huh? Who doesn't love waiting?! When the gospel of Luke starts we have to keep in mind what describes the 400 years prior to it. And that is summarized very easily in one word- Silence. The last anyone heard from God was the prophecy in Malachi 4:5-6

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

And then starts 400 years of... yup, you guessed it... waiting! Waiting for God to bring the next Elijah-like prophet who will prepare the way of the coming Lord. Just a quick reminder- 400 years of waiting. I really like craft coffee, but with that comes a little longer waiting time, which I understand, and can appreciate because the coffee I will consume will be of the highest quality. But my waiting has limits, I mean if it starts getting past 64 seconds I am pretty ancy! I'm patient and all (I think I proved that by my 60 seconds of gracious waiting), but I mean come on, I have my limits. All that to say, I wouldn't have done very well in the “intertestamental period”- the 400 years between Malachi and the gospels.

But now Luke is telling us something big is about to happen. He's coming! The long awaited prophet who will prepare the way of the Lord is coming! Luke starts the scene in Jerusalem, and in the temple, with a priest named Zechariah. He's married to Elizabeth who is of the priestly line of Aaron, but is waaaayyy past child bearing years and has been unable to have kids. An angel shows up to Zechariah and tells him his wife is going to have a baby and he's going to be great before the Lord. Now, if you are familiar with the Old Testament scriptures this might feel like a flashback. And indeed Luke wants you to think that. Back in Genesis 12 God spoke to an elderly couple past child bearing years and told them they were going to have a child who would bless all the nations of the earth. That was a major event in the Old Testament. If you know the story, that couple was Abraham and Sarah and they would have a son named Isaac who is the “forerunner” of Jacob who is the father of the nation of Israel (ie- the one who creates the people of God). Now Luke tells the same story with different characters to say, “It's happening again!” Zechariah and Elizabeth will have a child named John who will be the forerunner to the one who will truly create the people of God- Jesus Christ himself.

After telling us of the promise made to Zechariah and Elizabeth of a very special child, Luke tells us another story of a promised child. He's setting these side by side so we are forced to compare and contrast them. The scene of this promised child doesn't start in the temple, and it's not in Jerusalem; we are taken up north to a no name place called Galilee. And the angel Gabriel isn't talking to the wife of a priest, he's talking to a young unmarried teenager. And the promise to this young teenage girl named Mary is that she will give birth to the savior of the world. Quite a promise. But just like a promise to Elizabeth about having a kid, there is a problem. It's not that Mary is beyond childbearing years, she's just a teenager. Rather, it's that she does not have a husband. She's engaged, but a virgin. Then Gabriel tells her something absolutely amazing- the child will not come from the seed of a man, but the Holy Spirit will create life within her womb. This will truly be the son of God!

Pause with me for a minute. Doesn't this seem a little backwards? Doesn't it make more sense that the forerunner would be born to some no-name couple from a backwoods town and the Savior of the world would be born to a priest and a daughter of Aaron? You'd think the story would build in importance and prominence as we move towards the birth of the Son of God. But instead it moves towards anonymity and ordinary. Maybe that's all going to change in the next few chapters. Maybe we'll soon be in an ornate palace with the birth of the Savior. I would imagine he'll be born in the most royal surroundings- born and placed in a golden crib with the softest of down feathers cradling his precious body. And just imagine the people who will show up to welcome him into the world- priests and kings and all those who know the Old Testament promises! I bet this is one of those stories that starts humble and moves to magnificent! We'll see how it all shakes out in the coming chapters...