

# 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 9th, 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 [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

### // Call to Worship //

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

All: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

All: The Lord is near.

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

Let us worship our God!

—based on Philippians 4:4-5

“Adore the King” by Ryan Hammer

### [O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#)

### // Prayer of Confession //

Leader: While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much.

Forgive us Lord,

for not bending the knee,

for not reading your Word,

for not searching our hearts,

for not facing our sins.

Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!

Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory.

ALL: Amen.

**// Assurance of Pardon //**

Leader: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.  
In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

—based on Psalm 85:9-13

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

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

During ADVENT as we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, it seems fitting that we would welcome one another with peace here this morning. Take a moment to do just that.

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

The LORD says to his servant,  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”  
—from Isaiah 49:6

*Pastoral Prayer and Offering*

*Sermon- Advent Week #3*

***CCC Kids sing Christmas Songs!***

[Do You Hear What I Hear](#)

[Jesus Loves the Little Children](#)

**// Benediction //**

Leader: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.  
Go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Peace be with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

# REFLECT ON LAST 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!

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

### **Scripture to Meditate On:**

Luke 1:46–47 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

### **Heidelberg Catechism**

#### **Q & A 32**

Q. But why are you called a Christian?

A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing.

I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

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

The *Incarnation* of the Son of God

We confess, therefore, that God has fulfilled the promise which He made to the fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets, when He sent into the world, at the time appointed by Him, His own only-begotten and eternal Son, who took upon Him the form of a servant and became like unto man, really assuming the true human nature with all its infirmities, sin excepted; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit without the means of man; and did not only assume human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, that He might be a real man. For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that He should take both upon Him, to save both.

(from the Belgic Confession Article 18)

**Reflection Questions:**

- o In our Passing of the Peace we stated of peace- “Our world desperately needs it, and we know the only source- Jesus Christ himself.” Where do you see the need for peace in the world around you? Where are we often looking for peace only to be disappointed? Reflect on our need for Jesus to come and come quickly to heal us and our world, and let your heart yearn for a different world that Jesus will recreate for us.
- o What role do *symbols (icons, images, sacraments, etc.)* play in your Christian life? Have there been any symbols of God’s faithfulness to you that you have treasured? Why do you think those are powerful or important?
- o When did salvation in Jesus go from a historical fact to something you personally desperately needed? If it still feels like it is in the “historical fact” category, why do you think that is? What do you think would help it become more of a personal need for you?
- o How is the proclamation of Jesus as “Immanuel” good news if we also say that we are sinners who have rejected God?

**Suggested Resources from last week:**

Articles: [How We Can Know God Wants to Be With Us](#) by Leah Baugh  
[The Gospel According to Mary](#) by Michael Horton  
[Born of the Virgin Mary](#) by RC Sproul

\*\*\*\*\***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) ;)   
[The Concept of Project Parenting](#) with Paul Tripp

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

**New City Catechism**

Question 27

Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

## FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

*Read aloud together:*

Luke 1:46-50

46 Mary responded,

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,

and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

49 For the Mighty One is holy,

and he has done great things for me.

50 He shows mercy from generation to generation

to all who fear him.

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- Why is Mary so happy in this song? Why is that such a great thing?
- If you were going to write a song about how happy you were that Jesus was coming, what the lyrics be?

### *Prayer*

Awesome God, we are really excited for Christmas. We can't wait to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We know that Jesus coming to earth means that you love us and sent him to save us. Fill our hearts with love for Jesus and joy for his coming. Help us to also share the great news of Jesus with our friends, family, and neighbors. We pray that this Christmas some of the people we know come to have faith in Jesus! Amen!

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

**Title:** “REJOICE!”

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

**Watch:** <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/advent-week-2-rejoice/>

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

Advent involves such anticipation because of the unbelievable joy we receive from the coming Christ child. After hearing from the angel Gabriel that she would give birth to God's son, Mary is also told that her relative Elizabeth (who is far past child bearing years) is pregnant with a child as well. Mary sets off to be with her relative, assumingly to be with someone who understands the promise of a miraculous birth story and God's faithfulness there.

When Mary arrives Elizabeth is filled with joy that she gets to be in the presence of her Lord and savior who resides within Mary. The joy is infectious as Mary then breaks out into a song of exuberant praise for what God has done for her.

This song from Mary is intensely personal. She is not just singing about a the God who saves, she is rejoicing about “God my Savior”! Notice the difference in that statement and the one she made after hearing the news from Gabriel. After Gabriel tells her she will have God's baby inside of her, she responds with “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”. Saying you are God's servant is a noble thing. It is very proper to have that understanding. But there isn't any exuberant praise there. There isn't any explosion of gratitude and joy there; maybe a good dose of appreciation, but that's about as

high as it goes. It's only when the good news of the coming Savior becomes *personal* to Mary that she breaks out in joyous praise! God has noticed her. Her specifically. He knows her name, he knows where she has come from, he has looked upon her and blessed her. She is not just a number or one of God's servants. She is Mary "blessed of God".

The good news for us is that this child was not only sent to Mary. He was sent to us! All those with faith in the coming Savior! And if that child is ours too, then this song is ours too. It's more than a song sang thousands of years ago by a unmarried teenager from a little unknown town, it's our response to God's gracious action for our humble estate. The sending of this child is proof that he knows us and loves us. And not just "us" in general, but "you" in particular. He is Immanuel, God with us. Which means he is with you. He came for you. He looked upon your humble estate and desired to change it so he did. You are known and loved by the creator of the universe, and nothing shows that more than the sending of his son for you- little old no name, regular you! Which, by the way, is cause for some great rejoicing! Jesus Christ is yours! Merry Christmas. Amen.