

# WORSHIP GUIDE | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

// Review of last Sunday- February 3rd

**Sermon text:** [Ephesians 5:3-21](#)

**Sermon video:** <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/children-of-the-light/>

**Songs:** [Spotify playlist](#)

## **Readings:**

### **// Prayer of Preparation //**

Gracious God, we are eager to hear your word today. Eager to receive nourishment at your table. May our hearts be opened, our eyes unblinded, and our hearts softened. Speak to us, oh God, we are desperate for you today. Amen.

### **// Call to Worship //**

Leader: We gather together to worship God, who, through the blood of Jesus Christ, has freed us from the darkness and emptiness of our former lives!

All: We who believe in Jesus have been reborn, and are now children of the living God!

Leader: Come, let's worship the God who has set us free!

—based on 1 Peter 1

### **// Prayer of Confession //**

Leader: Lord God, You are faithful, loving, worthy of trust and praise. We are disloyal, hateful and deserve death. Lord, we forget that you are our true source of hope and strength.

We are tempted to lean upon our own power to accomplish good and to break the power of sin.

All: Lord we will fail without your help.

Leader: Forgive us for consulting the wisdom of man before bowing before you in prayer.

All: Forgive us for relying on the perishable rather than your enduring word.

Leader: Help us to trust in your son Jesus, and find rest in the promises that were made in His blood. In his name we plead for mercy, Amen.

### **// Assurance of Pardon //**

Leader: Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

All: Thanks be to God.

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

The peace we have with God is because Jesus Christ has lived for us and died in our place. And now as God's family we live at peace with one another. Let's display that peace by greeting one another here this morning, taking care to welcome those who are new to our community.

### **// 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.

All: And also with you

### Reflection Questions:

- For our *Prayer of Confession* we asked forgiveness for “consulting the wisdom of man before bowing before you in prayer.” Is that true of you? When do you find yourself consulting others before talking to God? Why is it your first instinct to go to others and not God?
- What sins seem to keep showing up in your life? How long have they been hanging around? What do you think you need to help you fight against them? What have you tried and why hasn't it worked?
- What sort of unfruitful works need to be exposed in our world today?
- What did God do in saving you? What benefits do you have from being “in Christ”? How can you make reviewing part of your daily life so it might (by God's grace) create a thankful heart?

## FAMILY BIBLE TIME!

**READ:** Ephesians 5:8 & 10 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

### ASK:

- What does Paul mean when he says we were once darkness but are now light in the Lord? How does a person become “light in the Lord”
- How can you *walking as children of light* in your family, at school, or with your friends?
- What sorts of things please the Lord? How do we figure out what will please God? Have you ever felt like you did something that pleased God? What was it?

**PRAY:** Awesome God, we know we are no longer full of darkness and are now children of light, and we thank you so much for that, but we also know we still sin and do things that are more like the way we used to be rather than our new selves. Help us to know what you want us to do and to do it. Help us to do what is right even when nobody's watching. We love you Jesus, thanks for saving us!

### REVIEW

[NEW CITY CATECHISM Question 17](#)

Q: *What is idolatry?*

A: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

**[next page: Prepare for Sunday]**

## // Prepare for this Sunday- February 10th

**Sermon Text:** [Ephesians 5:3-21](#)

**Questions to Prepare:** Where have you gotten your thoughts on the roles in marriage? What did you learn about marriage roles from watching your parents growing up? How have you heard Ephesians 5 taught before? How would you summarize Paul's teaching here?

**Songs:** [Spotify playlist](#)

### **Readings:**

#### **// Prayer of Preparation //**

We are very thankful, God, that you want us to come and worship you. We know you are listening to us when we sing and when we pray. And we know that will bless us before we leave. Thank you, God. Amen.

#### **// Call to Worship //**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.  
-Psalm 100

#### **// Prayer of Confession //**

Awesome and compassionate God,  
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving  
mercy,  
but we have not loved you.  
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.  
You ask us to love, but we walk away from  
neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we  
repent in spirit and in truth,  
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your  
forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
Amen.

#### **// Assurance of Pardon //**

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins  
is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have  
redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of  
our trespasses, according to the riches of his  
grace.  
—from Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7

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

As people who have been transformed by the  
peace of Christ, let us extend that peace by  
greeting one another here this morning.

#### **// Benediction //**

Leader: May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who is the source of all goodness and  
growth, pour his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you, his children,  
that you may use them to his glory and the  
welfare of all peoples.  
Go in the name of the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit.  
Peace be with you!

All: And also with you