



SUNDAY RECAP for Sunday, December 3

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON:

Philippians 2:5–7

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

This weeks ADVENT PRAYER

“A Prayer for Orienting our Hearts During Advent”

Part of a prayer in [Every Season Prayers](#) by Scotty Smith

Dear Lord Jesus, Advent has just begun, and I am praying it will be a season marked more by hush than rush. If I’m going to be busy with anything, may it be with quieting my heart, focusing my gaze, and setting my affections on things above- especially you, the Author and Perfecter of my faith; the source and Lord of my salvation; the fountain and fullness of all grace.

If angels were on tiptoes with joy as they pondered your coming, so renew my awe and joy as well. I will never cease giving you thanks for those you sent into my life to preach the gospel to me by the power of the Holy Spirit. I will ever praise and worship you, Lord Jesus, for granting me the knowledge of my need and a love for yourself. Apart from the new birth, I would forever be a prisoner to my old life. O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and bring even greater freedom to my heart and glory to yourself. I pray in the wonders of your love and the trustworthiness of your name. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- During our time of worship together on Sundays we receive from our God together. What do you feel you received from Him this week? What impacted you and why?
- What are you experiencing as we head into this ADVENT season? Is this year different or is it much like any other year? Why?
- What do you enjoy about the Christmas season? What do you dislike?
- How is the announcement that “He came to us” good news to you and to our church?
- What’s the difference in the announcement “He came” and “He came to us” for you in your daily life?
- Who can you be praying for this Advent season- that they would know He came to THEM?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

See the [NEW CITY CATECHISM](#) app for great questions to review with your children to help them understand Christian Theology.

JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE: "He's Here!" p.176

- Are you excited for Christmas? What are you most excited about?
- ADVENT means "Arrival", so when we talk about ADVENT season we are talking about awaiting Christmas when Jesus was born.
- Discussion: A man named Isaiah who was a prophet (or someone who spoke for God) made an announcement that God would send a child to us. Who do you think he was talking about?
 - Why did Jesus come to earth?
 - Does Jesus know who you are? Did he come for you?
 - Who do you know that doesn't know about Jesus? Lets pray for them during this ADVENT season.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: [Come Let Us Adore Him](#) by Paul David Tripp

Podcast: ["Why the God Man?"](#) by White Horse Inn

Article: ["The Glorious Incarnation"](#) by Nana Dolce

SONGS WE SANG *Check out our Spotify playlist here: <https://goo.gl/BQddvV>

[Adore the King](#) by Ryan Hammer

[Joy the World \(Unspeakable Joy\)](#) by Chris Tomlin

[O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#) by Red Mountain Music

[A Day of Glory](#) by Austin Stone Worship

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

L: At Christmas Jesus came as a baby.

C: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

L: He came to be like us because he loves us.

C: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

L: He came to save us from our sin. Alleluia! Jesus is coming! He died, rose from the dead, and lives in heaven. He will come again because he loves us.

C: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

L: We praise Jesus, who came as a baby and will come again at the end of time.

C: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Merciful God, always with us, always coming:

C: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent

L: We have forgotten how to hope in miracles

C: We have ignored the promise of your kingdom, we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God.

L: We make this season about things other than you. We focus on gifts and family; office parties, holiday events, and food -- all good things, but in the midst of those we forget the Christ.

C: God, forgive us for rejecting our Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God!

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

PASSING OF THE PEACE

With the announcement of the coming Christ in Isaiah, one of the titles He is given is the "Prince of Peace". What great news that He has brought us peace. Indeed He IS our peace. Take a moment to extend that loving peace to one another and welcome each other here this morning

BENEDICTION

L: As we go from here, God has granted us the privilege of sharing the good news that a child has been born to us! Go and proclaim that good news to the captives.

Go in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

SERMON NOTES:

HE CAME TO US | ADVENT 2017 | WEEK 1

Matthew 2:10 - "they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."

Why don't we have that kind of joy at the coming Christ?

One reason is perhaps that They are hearing about this child in the context of a history, a story that has CENTURIES of content- characters, and events, and promises that lead up to this.

They have a longing, an expectation, they have been waiting, the announcement sounds different to those ears than to our ears which aren't in a place of waiting.

Notice how the the gospel writers (that's the first 4 books in the New Testament- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) take great care to show that the life of Jesus Christ is the continuation of a story, not the beginning.

- **Matthew 1:1** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- **Mark 1:1–2** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way...
- **Luke 3:23** Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli... (Luke 3:38) ...the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.
- **John 1:1–3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

SERMON SUMMARY: ADVENT reminds us to be continually amazed that HE came to US

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Consider three surprising things with this announcement from Isaiah,

1. It's surprising THAT He came
2. The surprise of WHO came
3. The surprise that he came TO US

1. The surprise that He came

Hearing this with the ears of the Jewish people - When this announcement comes what do the Jewish people have? They have promises and the Law.

PROMISE - promise to Eve, Promise to Abraham, Promise to Noah, to David...

LAW - the demands of God, God accepted the law-obiders

The surprise is that God is saying this story is NOT going to be about us ascending to God but about God descending to us. It's a story that is going to be about HIS actions to COME DOWN rather than our actions to climb up.

2. THE SURPRISE OF WHO CAME

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

The solution to the problem of sin in the world is a baby? We might have expected to hear, "To us a warrior is born, a Conqueror is given", that would make sense. But a baby? A Child?

Again, locate this story in the **context of the greater story**. The promise in the garden was of a decedent, specifically called "HE" that would crush the serpent. If we heard that then when we hear that a SON is given, we are like- YES! The decedent has been given, the HE of Genesis 3:15 is here!

3. The surprise that He came TO US

Receiving a personal invitation from an important person is one thing, but imagine how much more amazing it is to have the arrival of that person at your door!

Consider the "TO US" in this verse- ***"TO US a child is born, TO US a son is given"***

What do the Jewish people have to recommend themselves to God? A long history of obedience? Faithfulness to God alone for centuries? No, that's not the story. They are an unworthy people, and yet they get to proclaim the most beautiful 4 words they could conceive of- "He came to **US!** Can you believe it?!?! To US!!"

But that news wasn't just for them, it's for us too.

The message of Christmas is not merely that HE CAME, but that HE CAME **TO US!** **We often live like the message is simply that "He Came."** If that's the message there doesn't have to be a personal attachment to it. You can be thankful for it but it can still exist outside yourself. But if the message is He came **TO US**. Now that does something to our affections. Now that leads us to something called WORSHIP and THANKFULNESS.

He came to selfish, lawbreakers who can't seem to get themselves together. To complainers and rejecters. To those who took his gifts and squandered them away. And those are exactly the people to whom Isaiah says- "Good News! HE CAME TO US!"