



SUNDAY RECAP for Sunday, December 10

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:

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

This Weeks ADVENT PRAYER:

“The Paradox of Jesus Birth” by Scotty Smith

Lord Jesus, we're in awe, knowing you came to fulfill everything we needed to become the very righteousness of God. But that awe gets ramped way higher when we compare your humble birthing to your staggering calling.

Though Mary nursed you, she depended on you for her next breath and her eternal salvation. Though vulnerable and needing her comfort as a newborn, it was you who came to comfort all who mourn, including Mary. O, holy and profound mystery—a Newborn Child has come to make all things new.

Even as a babe, the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord was on you, for you are the Sovereign Lord—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The One by whom all oppression will be stopped and all chains will be broken. The One through whom injustice will give way to justice.

By you, mourning is transformed into gladness, broken hearts become whole hearts, despairing hearts become joy-full hearts. We, the disfavored, become the favored of the Lord. Our disgrace is replaced with full grace. Who possibly could've seen, known, and believed such a thing, given the circumstances of your birth?

But the meekness of your birth was a sure hint of the weakness of your death. As surely as you were placed in an unlikely crib, you were nailed to an undeserved cross. Hail the incarnate deity—born that we no more may die, died that may truly live. We worship you, O, glorious and grace-full Lord Jesus. May we live today as conduits of your tender mercies and eternal encouragement. So very Amen we pray in your merciful and mighty name.

Heidelberg Confession Q: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, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David’s true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Was there anything from the readings or songs that stuck with you from this week? What was it and why do you think it stuck with you?
- Why is the humanity of Jesus so important? Why is the divinity of Jesus so important?
- Why is it necessary Jesus be born of a virgin?
- How does the incarnation bring you hope in your daily life?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

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

- Was Jesus a man? Was Jesus God? How was he both???
- Do you know why He had to be both 100% God and 100% Man? He was fully God so that he could live the perfect life and take us back to God and he was 100% man so he could die for our sins. Isn’t that great!!! So Jesus was like a real baby in the manger. Can you imagine Jesus mother Mary, taking care of Jesus, the savior of the world? Pretty crazy, right. He grew up like a normal child, except for one thing. Do you know what that was? He didn’t have the sinful nature like we have. You know how you and I don’t always love people and God like we should? You know how we are often selfish? Well, Jesus never was. He ONLY and ALWAYS loved others and God. He ALWAYS did exactly as God told Him. He was perfect.
- And now guess what!? He gives us that perfect life so we can have a perfect life too. He really was the best gift God the Father has ever given isn’t he?? Lets pray and thank God for sending Jesus for us.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

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

Articles: [“Why it Matters That Jesus Was Really Human”](#) by Silverio Gonzalez
[Here’s Why Jesus Never Said I Am God in the Bible](#) by Nicholas Davis
[The Divinity of Christ](#) by Ligon Duncan
[Christ and Humanity](#) by Michael Horton
[How Can God be God and Man](#) by Matt Perman

Video: [The Incarnation](#) by RC Sproul

Podcasts: **White Horse Inn** Series on meaning behind several famous Christmas Carols-

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/white-horse-inn/id356920632?mt=2#>

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

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#)

[Away in a Manger](#)

[Joy to the World](#)

[O Holy Night](#)

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather in preparation

C: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

L: We gather in expectation

C: for joy is about to explode in our midst.

L: We gather in celebration

C: For we are those people who have been made aware of our deep need.

We have received the Christ. We have received God in flesh. We have received our one and only Savior.

L: With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

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

L: 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.

C: Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of this Advent season ☐ is forgiveness of sin and new life in Christ. ☐ Receive that forgiveness now, for all your sins, past, present and future. All of them are completely forgiven. You are loved by God and freed from the bondage of sin in order to love and serve one another.

C: Praise be to our great God!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Each week during the Advent season as we await the coming Christ, we are lighting a candle. This candle symbolizes that Jesus, as the "Light of the World", has come down to us. He has become the light to those in the darkness.

Hear God's promise of the Coming Christ from Isaiah 49:6

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.”
— Isaiah 49:6

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven sinners, grateful that our God has not neglected us nor rejected us, let us not neglect one another. Take a few moments to welcome each other here today and take special notice of anyone who might be new and greet them.

BENEDICTION

L: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

SERMON NOTES:

INCARNATION AND WHY IT MATTERS | ADVENT 2017 | WEEK 3

Sermon Summary-

Jesus has to live the life we couldn't live and die the death we rightly deserve.

What is the “Incarnation”?

#1 - WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN?

Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

4 Reasons for the Virgin Birth:

- 1) It was promised (Isaiah 7:14)
- 2) The virgin birth shows salvation must come from the Lord (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 3) The virgin birth made possible the uniting of FULL deity and FULL humanity
- 4) The virgin birth makes possible Christ's true humanity without inherited sin

#2 - WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO BE FULLY HUMAN?

Luke 24:39–43 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

1 John 4:2-3 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

- 1) He has to be human to earn our obedience (Matthew 5:17, John 8:29, Romans 5:18)
- 2) He has to be human to die in our place (Mark 15:37, Romans 6:10)
- 3) He has to be human to REDEEM/RESTORE what it means to be “human” (Ephesians 1:22)

Summary: If Jesus isn’t fully human, he cannot accomplish what needs to be accomplished as a human to save humans.

#3- WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO BE FULLY 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 any thing made that was made.

Matthew 1:23 - called “Immanuel” (God with us)

Romans 9:5 - ...”Christ, who is God over all”

Titus 3:4–5 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared...
(See also: 1 John 5:20, Titus 2:13, Colossians 1:19)

Jesus’ own words:

John 8:58 “Before Abraham, I AM”

Matthew 26:63–65

But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

(See also: John 5:18; Revelation 22:13)

Why did Jesus have to be fully God?

- 1) Only the infinite God could bear the full penalty for all the sins of those who believe in him.
- 2) Man couldn't do it! The fall ruined us.
- 3) Only someone who was truly and fully God could mediate between God and man- to both bring us back to God and REVEAL God to us

#4- WHY IS THE INCARNATION SUCH GOOD NEWS FOR US?

CONSIDER- Without the incarnation of Christ, what would Christianity be?

- Work our way to God. We ascend to God by our own "goodness"

Why is it good news?

- We now have the confident hope of salvation. He gives us rest in the midst of our striving to earn our redemption. He accomplished it for us. Hallelujah!!!