

# Sunday Gathering

The Word Became Flesh,  
John 1:1-18 - Jason Crigler

December 10, 2023

Behold Our God

## Call to Worship - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

In this season of Advent, one of my favorite reminders is of the Incarnation - the nearness of Jesus. Immanuel, God With Us. The creator of the world, triune God, sends his Son to be fully man and fully God and walk among people He came to redeem.

This world can be so overwhelming at times, with trials and brokenness and sin. If this week has knocked you off your feet or if you are resting in a season of peace, praise the Lord that he is with us no matter our circumstances. He drew near to people through the birth of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, and praise the Lord that He draws near to us this morning as we gather together.

Read the underlined portions with me of a prophecy from Isaiah about God coming down to us:

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.  
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.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.  
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 ESV

## O Come All Ye Faithful

### Confession - John 1:14, 16

When we are too weak to move, too tired to stand, too stuck in sin, Jesus comes close to us and gives us abundant grace. Thank you, Father, for the representation of this through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Will you declare this truth with me this morning out loud?  
And The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

John 1:14, 16 ESV

This morning, as I read this hymn aloud, take a moment to let God draw near to you, and where you have weakness and failure, receive His grace.

For this day on Christmas morn  
All the world did wait and long  
Through sacrifice and at great cost  
Our God came down to us

With our hands so stained with sin  
We could not reach up to him  
'Ere the gap we could not cross  
Our God came down to us

Little babe in manger laid  
Born into a world he made  
King of all, what kind of love  
Our God came down to us

"Our God Came Down to Us," Sarah Sparks

---

***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

***Angels We Have Heard On High***

**Sermon - John 1:1-18**

**Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

***Behold the Christ (Sojourn)***

***He Who Is Mighty***

**Benediction**

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) We are starting to sell our 2024 MCT calendars today. \$10/each and we take cash, check, and card. Please check the table in the back to get yours today before they are all gone.

2) Antioch Kids and Young Disciples will be leading a Christmas song with the worship team on December 17th! There will be a few short practices on Sunday mornings beforehand. Please see Kathleen Williams, Sabrina Robertson or Sarah O'Malley for more info.

3) Next weekend is food pantry weekend. Our hope is that every single Antioch member would pray for God's continued blessing on this ministry. For those who are able to serve in other ways, we've got you covered.

Box prep will take place on Friday morning at 9:30. See Shannon Hunsucker or Sarah O'Malley for details.

On Saturday, we will be here from 8am until noon or so, but not everyone needs to be here during that entire time. We need 2-3 folks from 8-8:45 and another 2-3 from 8:45-9:30 to finish set up and register early arrivals. The bulk of servants should arrive between 9:30-9:50. If you really have a heart for loading and pushing carts, sleep in and show up at 10:30. If you're really tired and can't make it until 11:30, stop on by and help us clean up.

4) Security meeting today right after church, if you are interested in serving to help keep our church safe please see Andy Oliveras

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, Jesus Christ, God himself, became fully human to draw us close and make us like Him, a light in the darkness. Therefore, may you be fully confident in His nearness to you as you go about your week shedding light into dark places.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

You are sent.

---