

Follow the King

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Questions

Date: *December 4, 2022* | Scripture: *Isaiah 9:6 (Mighty God)*

1. Which image stuck with you most clearly from the sermon?
2. What has you worried this Christmas? Where do you feel powerless?
3. Who or what do you look to for protection and security? Your career? Your physical appearance or health? Your family? Your wealth? Consider thinking about it this way: what is the thing you'd be most anxious over losing?
4. How does Christ subvert worldly notions of power?
5. How is Christ powerfully at work on your behalf right now? How does it make you feel to know Christ is ceaselessly advocating on your behalf before the Father?

Inward Grace in Action

The power and humility of Christ is what enables us to evangelize. Christ came to earth humbly as a baby wholly dependent on his parents. We can go to our neighbors with gentleness and warmth this season inviting them to come with us to church. Christ was resurrected in power and has ascended to the throne of God, where he powerfully intercedes on behalf of our weakness. He also sends us by the power of his Holy Spirit, promising that our labor will not be in vain.

Whether they realize it or not, many of our friends, family, and neighbors are desperate for the humble power of Christ. Many are desperate for protection and security but end up clinging to things which fail to deliver on their expectations. We can empathize with them as people who continually forget the power and faithfulness of our God. But critically, we can also point them to the only true source of protection and security. As Martin Luther famously said, "we are all mere beggars telling other beggars where to find bread."

- Who are the people in your life you would love to see embrace Christ as their mighty God?
- How might you humbly extend an invitation to those in need this week?

Action: Commit to inviting someone you've been praying for to worship. See the back of your bulletin (copied below) for ideas on what that might look like—a Christmas concert, a live nativity, a candlelight Christmas Eve service, or reading through our church's Advent devotional together!

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- Exodus 15:1-18
- Psalm 24
- Mark 4:35-41
- Colossians 1:15-20
- Revelation 19:11-16

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for our church as we anticipate receiving nearly 20% of our annual budget in the next five weeks, that we might be driven by love and motivated to generosity.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

The thought of inviting a friend or neighbor to church can be daunting for just about anyone. And yet, understanding the beautiful gravity of this invitation demonstrates how life-changing the invitation may be.

Being thoughtful about how to extend an invitation can make all the difference. As you prayerfully consider who you'll invite to share Christmas with us, here are some helpful approaches for different relationships and contexts:

Those who know your heart (family, close friends). Allow your heart to speak to theirs. Express genuine care for them and your simple desire for them to experience something that is important to you. Integrate something tangible from your relationship into the invitation. *"Remember how you shared..."*

Those who see your actions (coworkers, neighbors). Keep it light and casual. They know who you are and there is honor in the fact that you thought of them. Even if they don't come, it can still move your relationship forward. *"Do you have plans..."*

Those who don't know you as well (gym buddies, fellow parents at school). Ask questions that set a path to extend the invite. Start the conversation openly. *"Tell me about some of your family's traditions..."*

When Christ commissions his disciples in Matthew 28, he ends with this beautiful encouragement: *"behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matt. 28: 20b) Rest in God's promise that he will soften hearts to the gospel and ask God to open a door for opportunities to come to Christmas with those you know.

Imagine the day when someone you know is worshiping alongside you. Can you see their face as they sing out love to the One who saved them, gave them peace, joy, purpose, life and satisfied all their deepest longings? It's a beautiful picture—for this world, and the eternal one to come.

That picture can be a reality but it starts with an invitation; it starts with you.



INVITE FRIENDS THIS MONTH

LIVE NATIVITY

Saturday, December 17 • 10am-12pm • McLean Parking Lot. Stop by with your kids to explore the Christmas story: watch a play, pet the animals, and enjoy our interactive stations! We'll host camels and other four legged friends. Invite your friends and neighbors and stay as long as you'd like!

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT & RECEPTION

Sunday, December 18 • 7pm • McLean Sanctuary. Celebrate the birth of Christ with this festive evening! Enjoy inspiring music from our adult and children's choirs and orchestral ensemble, and sing along to favorite carols.

Find all Advent information for your site:

mclean.capitalpres.org/christmas

fairfax.capitalpres.org/christmas

reston.capitalpres.org/christmas