

# Sunday Gathering Liturgy

From Aimless—Into Purpose,  
Luke 2:41-52 - Jason  
Hunsucker

January 2, 2022

Advent: From Darkness—Into  
Light

## Length in mins

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### 0:00 Call to Worship - Psalm 84:1-3, 5, 10

Welcome and introduction

Today we will be finishing our sermon series titled "From Darkness—Into Light," and the subject we'll be looking at is "From Aimless—Into Purpose". As we walk into 2022, we want to have our eyes on our eternal purpose in Christ.

But you may be here this morning, and let's be honest, the purpose ain't flowing. After the past two years, you may be scattered, and still trying to get a clear grip on the road ahead. Everyone's talking about New Year's resolutions, but you feel more like unresolved. You know what—we're glad you're here, and on behalf of Christ we invite you to come needy and searching—the Father's house is open to you.

Let's make this our prayer as we come (say the underlined portion with me):

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

Congregation:

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Congregation:

For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere. Psalm 84:1-3, 5, 10

Amen!

0:00 *Better Is One Day* [ Worship Initiative (Shane and Shane) in E ]

**0:00 Confession - Psalm 40:1-3, 8**

When we say "From Aimless—Into Purpose," what does that mean? What does that look like? How does it apply to us? If we are to move from darkness into light, then we need to confess how this world can make us aimless, in order to welcome God's greater purpose. One of our members is now going to share what that has looked like for her:

[Cherise Payne]

I was brought up by Christian parents and we always went to church on Sunday, Sunday night, and Wednesdays. But we were not just that family that was there every time the doors were open. My mother was and is a godly woman that taught me the truth, the Bible and about how to strive to be like Jesus. She taught me of God's love, a love that no matter what I did or didn't do he would never abandon me.

On one hand I had a wonderful childhood, but on the other hand some unfortunate things happened in my childhood that started me on a road of a negative self image and self hate.

Instead of embracing the truth that the Bible tells me about myself, that I was made in his image, and God loves me just as I am. Instead, I let the enemy take my thoughts captive I believed his lies. Lies like you're stupid, you're fat, you're ugly, no one wants you and no one ever will. Because of this negative self talk, and the fact that I was not renewing my mind with scripture every day, I began self soothing with food. If I was happy I ate, if I was angry I ate more and if I was sad I ate everything in sight. I was an addict. I let food control every aspect of my life. It was hard, hard to be so out of control.

This was a typical day. I would wake up in the morning and say to God in my prayer-- I am going to do this today Lord you just help me and make sure that I don't get too hungry and this will be the day that I start to lose the weight. Then night would come and I would fall into bed a failure once again. Night after night failure.

I stand before you today in all honesty that I don't know that I will ever fully overcome this addiction! But I will say that in January 2021 I started praying a different prayer. God is so good and so faithful he brought me to a new understanding of what food addiction really is and that I needed to approach it in a more scientific and spiritual level.

I have learned through the course of this year that God is not just going to take this from me that I have to renew my mind daily with his truth. That I needed to grieve the loss of sugar. That I have to rely on God's holy Word and to glorify him and all that I do.

One thing that the Lord has placed on my heart this year is, how am I to love others if I hate myself? There are so many scriptures that deal with loving your neighbor but one of my favorites is from Matthew chapter 22 verses 35-39, 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Lord God of the heavens and earth the maker of all things made me. So I know now that he made me for a purpose and with a full heart I can love him and others as well as myself. This is how the Father has brought me from aimless--into purpose.

Now church, let's make the spirit of this testimony our own, as we declare with the psalmist:

I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.

Congregation:  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the LORD.  
I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:1-3, 8

So be it.

**0:00 *Take My Life And Let It Be* [ Default Arrangement in C ]**

**0:00 *Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery* [ Default Arrangement in E ]**

**0:00 Posturing Prayer - Worship Team**

**0:00 Sermon - Luke 2:41-52**

**0:00 Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

**Length  
in mins**

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**0:00** *Sovereign Over Us* [ Winona in G ]

**0:00** *How Marvelous* [ Norton Hall I Stand Amazed in G ]

**0:00** **Announcements & Benediction - 1 Corinthians 15:58**

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

1) Giving & Visitors

Update:

This year we have a goal of raising \$5,000 for global missions, which will be divided among all our distributed members. We have raised - \$2146.80 so far!

Another goal is to sell out our MCT prayer calendars. They are \$10 each. This is great opportunity to help us fulfill our commitment to pray for the members we have distributed among the nations. We have only 8 left!

2) MCT Anniversary Celebration - Speaking of MCT, on January 9th we will be having a Sending Sunday to celebrate 10 years of Missionary Care Team! This will include a Sunday evening all-FG event from 4-6 PM that will involve snacks, kids activities, and commemoration of all our distributed members and their nations of service over the years.

Check your email for a link to RSVP for this event.

**\*\*important\*\*** Please note that this party will be taking the place of our regular Thursday MCT meeting this month.

3) Just a real quick reminder - if you brought items for the Criglers there is a box in the back to collect those. This is the last Sunday to give items to their ministry. Short notes of encouragement are appreciated! See Steve Hammil if you have questions.

4) Let's celebrate with the Power family - Felix Elliot Power was born on December 30th at 6:51pm weighing 8lbs. and 1oz. Momma and baby are doing well.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction which simply is a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. I invite you to hold out your hands as a posture of receiving this blessing:

Church, Jesus Christ has made a way for you to be in his Father's house forever. Therefore into an aimless world may you go steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Father's work, knowing that through him your labor is not in vain. Based on 1 Corinthians 15:58

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

Let's say this together: We are sent.

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**0:00**

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