

---

## Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way will have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way is a reminder for Andrew during delivery.



---

## Key Questions

### What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the Lordship and incarnation of Jesus.

### Why is this sermon important?

It is important because understanding the story of Jesus is our defining story as Christians.

### What is the good news?

The good news is that when God becomes human, anything is possible.

### What are the next action steps?

You are invited to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life.

### What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is part of a series focused on the Apostles' Creed. It is based on the book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton and a series of sermons preached at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in 2015 - <http://cor.org/leawood/sermon-series/searching-for-truth>

---

## Metadata

### Topics

- Change Lives
- Make Disciples
- Share Christ

2nd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed - Jesus Christ

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

March 12, 2017

Matthew 6:13-16

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

## Sermon Books of the Bible

- Galatians

- Matthew

## Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, Lent, 40Days, Believe, ApostlesCreed, Jesus, JesusChrist

## Sermon Audio

*9 a.m. Worship*

*11 a.m. Worship*

## Sermon Video



<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
Matthew 16:13-16, CEB	
Matthew 16:13-16, NRSV	
Response to Scripture	
Sermon Starter Video	
Jesus Questions his Disciples	
Personal Example of Who do you say that I am?	
Jesus Questions Us	
Believe Worship Series	
Today's Phrase of the Apostles' Creed	
<b>Christian Answer to Jesus' Question</b>	<b>6</b>
Peter	
Worldwide Christianity	
Three Paragraphs of the Apostles' Creed	
Second Paragraph of the Apostles' Creed	
Earliest Claims about Jesus	
Key Scripture: Galatians 1:1-4	
Pauls' Claims about Jesus	
Transition	
<b>Jesus is Lord</b>	<b>9</b>
In the Roman Empire	
Word Study	
Examples of lords	
For Us Today	
<b>Incarnation: God's Son, Born Human</b>	<b>9</b>
God Considers Incarnation	
Jesus' Story	
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>10</b>
Good News	
Call to Action	

2nd Sunday in Lent (Purple)  
Believe - Exploring the Apostles' Creed - Jesus Christ  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

March 12, 2017  
Matthew 6:13-16  
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,197

God's Revelation to Us

You Matter to God

Invitation

The Apostles' Creed

## Introduction

### Matthew 16:13-16, CEB

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

<sup>14</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

<sup>15</sup>He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

### Matthew 16:13-16, NRSV

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

## Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



## Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

## Jesus Questions his Disciples

Who do you say that I am?

Jesus asks his followers this question one day near Caesarea Philippi.

Who do you say that I am?

### *Personal Example of Who do you say that I am?*

If I were to ask you, "Who do you say that I am?" You might say, "You're Andrew Conard preacher at First United Methodist Church. If I were to ask my kids, "Who do you say that I am?"

They'd say, "You're Daddy, don't be silly."

## Jesus Questions Us

The question seems obvious, but when it comes to Jesus, it is a question with deep significance and one that has continued to be asked throughout history. In some ways, it is a question that Jesus asks us every day.

Jesus asks you and me, "Who do you say that I am today?"

## Believe Worship Series

The answer to this question is key to understanding the essential beliefs of the Christian faith. During this series we are taking a closer look at these beliefs and why they matter through the words of the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed is an ancient Christian statement of faith whose words or ideas come from the scriptures.

We are considering one topic each week and, along the way, trying to memorize the Apostles' Creed before Easter.

### *Today's Phrase of the Apostles' Creed*

Today, we consider the words of the creed that answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

*Pause*

## Christian Answer to Jesus' Question

### **Peter**

There are a variety of answers that you might give to this question. Peter gives one answer, he says, "You are the Christ or the Messiah, the son of the living God."

### **Worldwide Christianity**

About a third of the world's population might say something like that. This is a pretty standard Christian answer.

## Three Paragraphs of the Apostles' Creed

You may know that the Apostles' Creed is divided into three paragraphs.

The first paragraph is about God, the Father almighty.

The second paragraph is about Jesus Christ.

The third paragraph is about the Holy Spirit and many other things. Whatever is not covered earlier is covered in the third paragraph.

What you notice about the creed is that the paragraph about Jesus is the longest of all the paragraphs in the Apostle's Creed. If you look at the number of words, it looks like this:

### Apostles' Creed Paragraphs

- First - 12 words
- Second - 65 words
- Third - 28 words

Depending on which version of the creed you use, this is how the paragraphs compare to each other.

The second paragraph is what we believe about Jesus. You can tell simply by the word count that what we believe about Jesus is important.

*Pause*

## Second Paragraph of the Apostles' Creed

Let's say it together.

And in Jesus Christ  
his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead,  
and buried;

the third day he rose  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the  
right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come  
to judge the quick and  
the dead.

This is the Christian answer to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

*Pause*

This understanding of Jesus began in the very earliest days of the church.

## **Earliest Claims about Jesus**

Within days of Jesus' death, his disciples begin to say that they have seen him – risen from the dead. Then, in one of the very earliest books of the New Testament, the apostle Paul writes to the church in Galatia.

Listen how Paul describes Jesus in the opening section of his letter. I want you to hear how close it sounds to what we have in our Apostles' Creed. From Galatians 1:1-4

### ***Key Scripture: Galatians 1:1-4***

From Paul, an apostle who is not sent from human authority or commissioned through human agency, but sent through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead; and from all the brothers and sisters with me. To the churches in Galatia. Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave himself for our sins, so he could deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.<sup>1</sup>

One of the earliest pieces of Christian literature affirms most of the things that you just read in the Apostle's Creed written a hundred and some years afterwards.

### ***Pauls' Claims about Jesus***

Let's just take a look and see what he says:

- Jesus is Lord
- Jesus is the Christ
- Jesus gave himself for our sins.
- Jesus set us free from this present evil age.
- God the Father raised him from the dead.

When Jesus asked Paul, "Who do you say that I am?"

These are Paul's answers.

*Pause*

### ***Transition***

These claims about Jesus tell us something important about our faith.  
Consider, the claim that Jesus is Lord.

*Pause*

<sup>1</sup> Galatians 1:1-4, CEB.



---

## Jesus is Lord

### In the Roman Empire

Jesus is Lord is one of the earliest claims of the Christian faith and it is important to know what this means.

#### Word Study

The word "Lord" in Greek

**kurios or kyrios**

was a word that meant master or the highest authority in a given place.

#### Examples of lords

In those patriarchal times, the highest authority in the home was the husband and so the husband was Lord of the house.

In a city, it was likely the mayor and so it was Lord mayor who ruled the city.

In the Roman empire, the emperor was Lord – the highest authority in the empire. Christians, from the earliest times have the audacity to say that Jesus was Lord of all. Jesus was the highest authority of all and challenged even the emperor so that he was Lord of lords.

### For Us Today

For Jesus to be Lord means that when I wake up, I am asking,

"What do you want me to do today, Lord?

My life is no longer my own but thine, Lord.

Put me to what you will, Lord."

It's inviting Christ to be the captain of our ship, to lead and guide our lives because we believe he lives, risen from the grave, his will for our lives is of paramount importance to us.

Jesus is Lord.

---

*Pause*

---

## Incarnation: God's Son, Born Human

Another key claim of the Christian faith found in the Apostles' Creed is that Jesus is God's Son, born human – the incarnation.

### God Considers Incarnation

We believe that God who permeates everything, without whom nothing would exist, considered:

How can I speak to these human beings that I created in my image?

How can I help them see and understand?

How can I help them not be afraid to know grace and mercy and love?

How do I help them understand?

Perhaps if I came and walked among them.

So God was born as a human - truly God and truly human. God is born as a human in the ancient near east. He teaches, loves, redeems, heals, dies, rises so that when we look at him, we see God.

We believe that the invisible God chose to become visible in Jesus Christ.

---

*Pause*

---

## **Jesus' Story**

Our defining story as Christians is that God came to us in a babe in Bethlehem, born in poverty. He grew up to be a man who reached out to those who were sinners and lost and broken and marginalized and people made to feel small. He reached out to them to offer them the love of a God who is the God of the second chance.

He talked to them what it means to be human and he showed them that we're meant to love our neighbors and our enemies. We are designed to have compassion for people and to reach out with care for those who are in need. He taught us that we're not meant to judge other people and that greatness is found in serving others.

He came to suffer and die at the hands of human beings redemptively, that God would use his suffering to redeem and to save. He came to deliver us from ourselves and then in the end, he came and rose from the grave as a sign of God's ultimate triumph over sin, evil, hate, and death. This is what Christians proclaim when they look at Jesus – God came as a human.

---

## **Conclusion**

### **Good News**

The good news is that when God becomes human, anything is possible.

### **Call to Action**

#### ***God's Revelation to Us***

Jesus was God's intentional plan to be revealed to us.

For God to be able to say in human flesh, in a language we can understand:

I am and you are my children.

I know you by name and those of you who feel worthless and made to feel small and insignificant, you matter most to me. I can redeem you and save you from yourself and the brokenness and the mess you've made of your life and I have mercy and love that will not let you go.

When you get to the end, the worst and the most horrifying thing that you fear the most, it's not the end. It's only the end of beginning and there's so much more.

#### ***You Matter to God***

When God sent Jesus, he was a living, breathing message who lived, talked, suffered, and died to proclaim to you something really important.

You matter to God.  
Your life has meaning and purpose.  
Your sins can be forgiven.  
No matter how dark the darkness that you're walking through, it will never have the final word.

All of this is God's revelation about who God is, about God's compassion and mercy, and about the hope that we have as Jesus followers.

We lead our lives differently because we believe that there is hope.

We believe that there is meaning and purpose in life – when we connect our story with God's story in Jesus Christ.

When we wake up again each morning and say, "Once more today, Jesus. My answer to your question is you are the Messiah, the son of the living God.

You are the Lord of my life.

*Pause*

## Invitation

Will you please stand, as you are able, and say the Apostles' Creed with me?

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in  
God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ  
his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead,  
and buried;

the third day he rose  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the  
right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come

to judge the quick and  
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.