

# Corinth

Post

Modern

Faith

**Enough?**

# Recap

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still **worldly**—mere **infants** in Christ. [3:1](#)

Baby (infant)

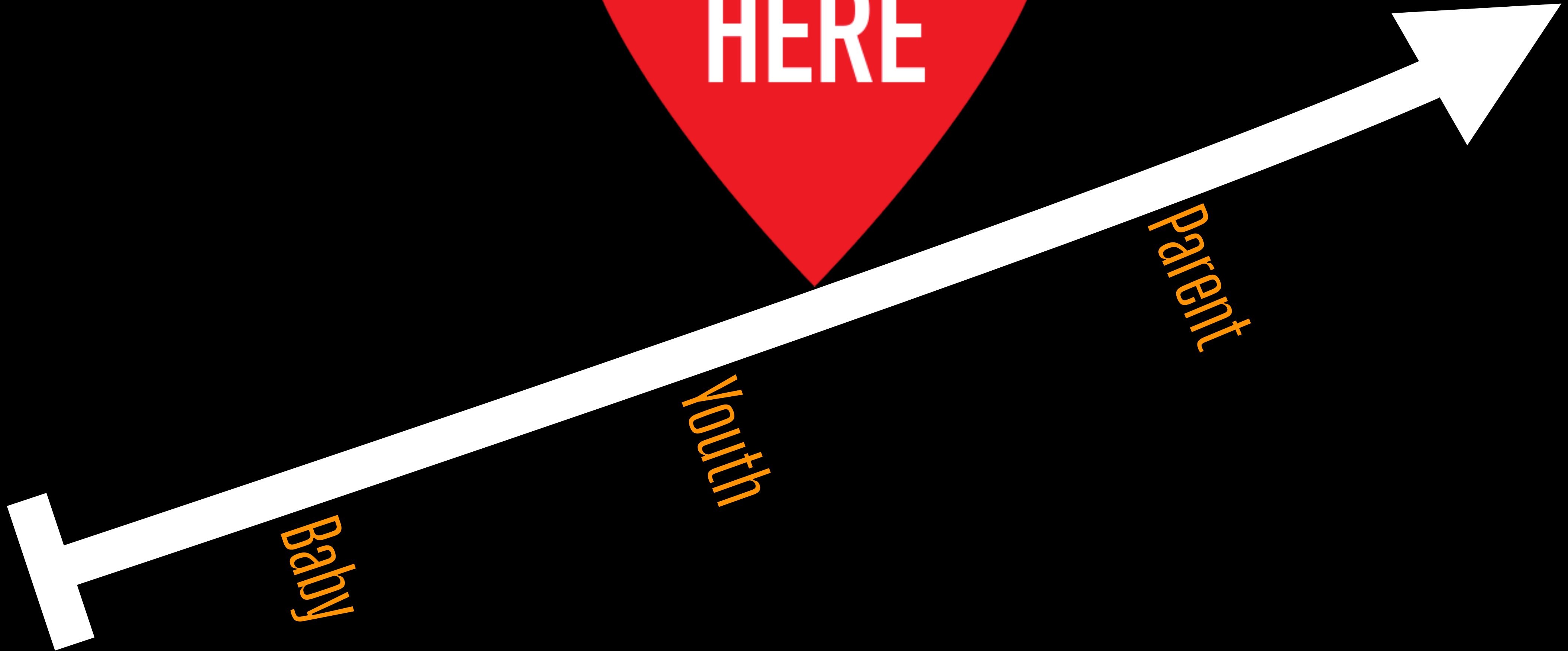
Youth

Adult

What **stage**  
are you in of  
your spiritual  
development?

Recap

Maturity  
(Christ-likeness)



Baby

Youth

Parent

## Recap

So let us stop going over the **basic teachings** about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become **mature in our understanding**. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of **repenting** from evil deeds and placing our **faith in God**. You don't need further instruction about **baptisms**, the **laying on of hands**, the **resurrection** of the dead, and **eternal judgment**. And so, God willing, we will **move forward to further understanding**. **Hebrews 6:1-3**

When the **ground soaks up** the falling rain and bears a **good crop** for the farmer, it has God's blessing. But if a field bears **thorns and thistles**, it is **useless**. The farmer will soon **condemn** that field and **burn it**. **Vs 7-8**

Maturity is not optional, it is **salvific**

# Recap

Corinth is **sensual**

Corinth is **immature**

Corinth is **struggling** with **transformation**

Corinth is trying to **blend** the Gospel and culture

# How to Want Less, Arthur C. Brooks

As we wind our way through life... **satisfaction**—the joy from fulfillment of our wishes or expectations—is evanescent. No matter what we achieve, see, acquire, or do, it seems to slip from our **grasp**.

Mick Jagger's satisfaction dilemma—and ours—starts with a rudimentary formula: Satisfaction = **getting what you want**. The Stones' song should really have been titled "(I Can't **Keep** No) Satisfaction." It's almost as if our brains are **programmed** to prevent us from enjoying anything for very long.

## How to Want Less, Arthur C. Brooks

Satisfaction...is the greatest **paradox** of human life. We crave it, we believe we can get it, we glimpse it and maybe even experience it for a brief moment, and then it **vanishes**. But we never give up on our quest to get and hold on to it. “I try, and I try, and I try, and I try,” Jagger sings. How? Through **sex** and **consumerism**, according to the song. By building a life that is ever more baroque, expensive, and laden with crap.

If you base your sense of **self-worth** on success—money, power, prestige—you will run from victory to victory, initially to keep feeling good, and then to avoid feeling **awful**.

## How to Want Less, Arthur C. Brooks

Bucknell University neuroscientist Judith Grisel explains brilliantly in her book, *Never Enough: The Neuroscience and Experience of Addiction*, addiction is in part a by-product of homeostasis (maintaining physical and mental equilibrium): As the brain becomes **used** to continual drug-induced production of dopamine—the neurotransmitter of pleasure, which plays a large role in nearly all addictive behaviours—it steeply curtails **ordinary production**, making another **hit** necessary simply to feel normal.

The unending race against the headwinds of homeostasis has a name: the “**hedonic** treadmill.”



Sometimes I'll start a sentence and I don't know where it's going. I just hope to find it somewhere along the way. Like an improv conversation. An improversation. **Michael Scott**



What **satisfies** you?

## 4:1-6

So look at Apollos and me as **mere** servants of Christ who have been put in charge of **explaining** God's **mysteries**. Now, a person who is put in charge as a **manager** must be faithful. **4:1**

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's **secret** plan. **2:1**

No, the wisdom we speak of is the **mystery** of God **2:7a**

## 4:1-6

Paul's first point is that ministers are not to be regarded as anything but servants of Christ. The Greek word Paul uses is not diakonoi (i.e. table-waiters—from which we get our word “deacon”), but hyperetes, which refers to an “**under-rower**,” that is, an oarsman on the lower deck of a large ship. Ministers are servants of God, called to a position of service which the world regards as **lowly**. **Dr. Kim Riddlebarger**

## 4:1-6

But ministers of God also have been entrusted with the **secret** things of God. Although the world regards what they do as **lowly-bottom deckers**—God has called them to a very unique and important task. The word here translated as “**stewards**” is oikonomou which refers to someone who supervises a large estate, i.e., a manager or an administrator. This term should make us think of one who functions as a chief of staff. The oikonomou ran the master’s estate, cared for the property and animals, supervised the labourers, procured supplies, etc. But the oikonomou was always **subservient** to the owner of the estate. **KR**

## 4:1-6

As for me, it matters very little how I might be **evaluated** by you or by any **human authority**... So don't make **judgments** about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due. **Vs 3b, 5**

**ανακρινω, Anakrino, evaluate:** to interrogate, examine the accused or witnesses

**κρινω, Krino, judge:** to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong

## 4:8-21

You think you already have everything you **need (full)**. You think you are already rich. You have begun to **reign (kings)** in God's kingdom **without us!** 4:8a

**Are filled, korennumi:** means satiate, fill, to be content. In passive means get enough of, be satisfied with, have all one wants of something, "to overeat."

The seat of the problem here at Corinth was their **love** of human wisdom, their **hunger** for the approval of the world, and the **pride** they took in their own accomplishments that they felt merited that approval. **Ray Stedman**

## 4:8-21

Corinth is **satisfied** with their current spiritual state. And this is the **problem**. It is one thing to be 'in' sin and aware and seek repentance. It is all together something different if you are 'in' sin and **content** with that posture

Our spiritual lives tend to get the very **last** of our attention. We think that believing/behaving is the start and end of the matter. But what if hunger/growth are the foundational dynamics of an **authentic** disciple?



## 4:8-21

Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles on **display**, like **prisoners** of war at the end of a victor's parade, condemned to die. We have become a **spectacle** to the entire world—to people and angels alike. Our **dedication** to Christ makes us look like **fools**, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are **weak**, but you are so powerful! You are honoured, but we are **ridiculed**. Even now we go **hungry** and **thirsty**, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often **beaten** and have **no home**. We work wearily with **our own hands** to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who **abuse us**. We appeal gently when **evil things** are said about us. Yet we are treated like the **world's garbage**, like everybody's **trash**—right up to the present moment. **Vs 9-13**

## 4:8-21

In **Philippi** he had been illegally beaten and thrown into prison. His labours in **Thessalonica** were fruitful, but the Jews soon stirred up a mob in opposition to him. From there he traveled to **Berea**, a city in which the Jews were quite receptive to his message. However, the Jews of **Thessalonica** did not waste much time in following Paul and inciting the crowds against him. The next stop on the apostle's missionary itinerary found him in **Athens**, the intellectual center of Greece. His preaching bore some fruit, but it also precipitated scorn from the sophisticated Athenians. When Paul left Athens to make the short journey down to Corinth, he approached the teeming city aware of its notorious reputation. **G. Lacoste Munn**

## 4:8-21

Some of you have become **arrogant**, thinking I will not visit you again. But I will come—and soon—if the Lord lets me, and then I'll find out whether these arrogant people just give **pretentious** speeches or whether they really have God's **power**. For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power. Which do you **choose**? Should I come with a rod to punish you, or should I come with love and a gentle spirit? [Vs 18-21](#)

**Apostle:** sent one, envoy, delegate, ambassador

**Elder:** Several terms were used to denote those men appointed as leaders over the local churches. Although here they will be referred to simply as “Elders,” they were alternately called “overseer” (episkopos), “shepherd” (Poimen), and Elder (presbuteros). These terms were used synonymously without any distinction drawn between them. The term “presbuteros” can also be translated simply as “presbyter,” and Poimen (shepherd) has also come to us as “pastor” (from the Latin, Pastorem). Episkopos, through a later etymology, is also rendered “bishop.” Elders were appointed to provide leadership and guidance to the local churches in the absence of the Apostles

The **apostles** and **elders** in the early church served very important roles. This fledgling 'reformed judaism' movement was still in its **infancy**. The church didn't know what it was and what it should believe. Believing 'in' Jesus was only the **starting** point. How then do we live when confronted with the cultures values/worldview? How are we supposed to behave?

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Paul and Barnabas **disagreed** with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the **apostles** and **elders** about this question. [Acts 15:1-2](#)

So the **apostles** and **elders** met together to **resolve** this issue. [Vs 6](#)

**Apostle:** mere servants, put in charge of explaining God's mysteries, faithful, prisoners of war, condemned to die, spectacle to the entire world, look like fools, We are weak, we are ridiculed, we go hungry and thirsty, we don't have enough clothes to keep warm, We are often beaten and have no home, We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living, We bless those who curse us, We are patient with those who abuse us, We appeal gently when evil things are said about us, we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash

**Corinth:** you already have everything you need, You think you are already rich, You have begun to reign in God's kingdom, you claim to be so wise in Christ, but you are so powerful, You are honoured



What **satisfies** you?

One of the unintended (or very much intended) is that the Gospel will reveal our **hidden** (or not so hidden) desires. Our satisfaction is all about what we truly believe gives us **meaning**

You **think** you already have everything you **need**. 8a

I am not writing these things to **shame** you,  
but to **warn** you as my **beloved** children. **Vs 14**

Baby → Youth → Adults

Things you **have** to do (**extrinsic**)

Things you **want** to do (**intrinsic**)

Things you **should** do (**prospection**)

**Prospection:** core function of the human mind is to **predict** and **prepare** for the immediate and distant future. The capacity for future-oriented cognition has been called **prospection**. Human beings are essentially **goal oriented** creatures. We **envision** our future and behave/think/orient ourselves **towards** it

What happens in your brain when you set a goal, Anna Kegler

**A shift in identity:** Setting a goal has a powerful effect on how we see ourselves as people, human brain can't tell the difference between what we want and what we have. our brain absorbs the desired outcome into our self-image immediately, establishing it as an essential part of who we are

**Corinth:** you already have everything you need, You think you are already rich, You have begun to reign in God's kingdom, you claim to be so wise in Christ, but you are so powerful, You are honoured

If this is your **self image/goal**, what does the cross/Gospel have that will appeal to you?

Corinth is **satisfied** with what the **world** has to offer. And in this, they no longer **grow** or **hunger** for what God has for them

The secret of spiritual success is a **hunger that persists**...It is an **awful condition** to be satisfied with one's spiritual attainments... God was and is looking for hungry, thirsty people. **Smith Wigglesworth**

Most Christians are satisfied living as **common** Christians, without an **insatiable hunger** for the deeper things of God. **AW Tozer**

Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: “Why are you living in **luxurious houses** while my house lies in ruins? This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: **Look at what’s happening to you!** You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not **satisfied**. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! [Haggai 1:3-6](#)



This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: **Look at what's happening to you!** (You think) **Vs 7**

It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. I have called for a **drought** on your fields and hills—a **drought** to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a **drought** to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get. **Vs 10-11**

Why? Because **my house** lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are **busy** building your own **fine houses**. **Vs 9b**





## UCC Waterloo Sermons

Raja Stone

CHRISTIANITY · UPDATED WEEKLY

UCC Waterloo Sermons

▶ Latest Episode

+ Follow



### Episodes

See All

SUNDAY

**Half-Life part 5**

UCC Waterloo Sermons

1 h 47 min.

MAY 22

**Half life part 4**

UCC Waterloo Sermons

MAY 15

**Half life part 3**


UCC Waterloo Sermons


MAY 8


**Half life part 2**



UCC Waterloo Sermons

WELCOME TO  
**UPTOWN  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
Word. Worship. Community.

 **UCC Waterloo**  
133 subscribers

SUBSCRIBED 

HOME **VIDEOS** PLAYLISTS CHANNELS ABOUT 

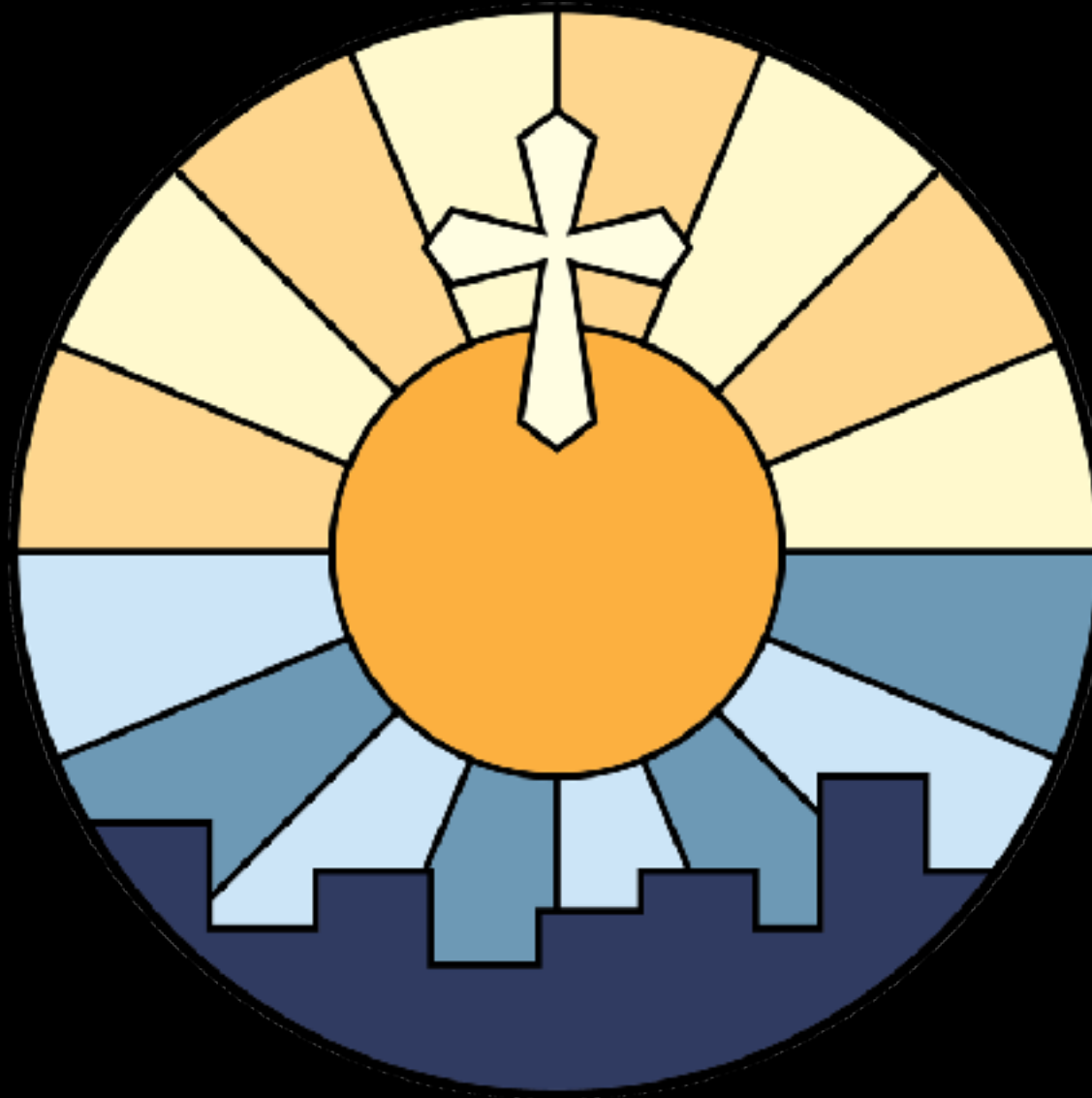
Uploads   SORT BY

Video Title	Duration	Views	Streamed
UCC Waterloo Live Stream	2:10	115 views	Streamed 1 year ago
UCC Waterloo Live Stream	1:20:28	277 views	Streamed 1 year ago
December 27th 2020 Service	47:36	117 views	1 year ago
Uptown Kids December 27th	15:27	35 views	1 year ago
UCC Christmas Eve Service 2020	39:56	142 views	1 year ago

Content will be uploaded by the latest **Monday** night

**text2give**

226-909-0014



**eTransfer**

info@uccwaterloo.ca

(auto deposit)